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Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report 2010

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society

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The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society is the county's senior natural history society. It has for its principal objectives the practical study of natural science, the conservation of wildlife, the publication of papers on natural history, especially those relating to the county of Norfolk, arranging lectures and meetings and the promotion of active field work. Specialist groups cover most aspects of the county's flora and fauna.

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Common Cranes *(Neil Bowman)*

Back cover photograph:
One of the very confiding Otters in the Little Ouse, Thetford, December 2010 *(Neil Calbrade)*

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NORFOLK BIRD REPORT 2010

Contents

Editorial *Andy Stoddart* 2
Acknowledgements 4
Notes for Contributors 5
Review of the Year *Justin Lansdell* 8
Evening Movements of Woodcock over Cley and Blakeney *Richard Porter* 11
The Breeding Birds of Courtyard Farm Ringstead *John R. Williamson* 14
Icelandic Redwing at Walcott in 2009 - Second for Norfolk *Mick Fiszer* 30
The Breeding Bird Community of a Broadland Fen *Christopher F. Mason* 31
Diet of Wintering Owls on Blakeney Point
Richard Porter, Edward Stubbings and Chris Wheeler 37
Iberian Chiffchaff at Stiffkey - Second for Norfolk *Ashley McElwee* 38
A Breeding Record of Marsh Warbler in East Norfolk *Peter Allard* 40
Iceland Redpoll at Kelling in 2009 - New to Norfolk *Andy Stoddart* 41
Trumpeter Finch at Blakeney Point and Cley - Second for Norfolk *Joe Cockram* 43
Iberian Chiffchaff at Titchwell - Third for Norfolk *Andy Stoddart* 44
River Warbler at Haddiscoe - Third for Norfolk *Chris Allen* 45
Wilson's Petrel off Sheringham and Cley - New to Norfolk
Kevin Shepherd, James McCallum, Richard Millington and Mark Golley 47
Apparent Alder Flycatcher on Blakeney Point - New to Norfolk *James McCallum* 52
Northern Harrier - New to Norfolk *Stuart White* 54
Northern Treecreeper at Kelling *Edward Stubbings* 58
The Systematic List 59
Introductions, Escapes, Ferals, Hybrids and Birds of Unknown Origin 179
Earliest and Latest Dates for Summer Migrants 184
Earliest and Latest Dates for Winter Migrants 185
BTO Nest Record Scheme totals for Norfolk 2010 *Dr Dave Leech* 186
Wetland Bird Survey - North Norfolk Coast 189
Maximum Monthly Counts 2010 - Breydon and Berney *Peter Allard* 191
Wetland Bird Survey - The Wash 2009 *Neil Lawton and Jim Scott* 192
Non-accepted Records 193
Ringing Report *Allan Hale* 195
Norfolk Ringing Totals 2010 206
List of Contributors to the Systematic List 207

NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT 2010

Contents

Editorial *Dave Leech* 210
Tribute to Steve Henson *Tony Leech* 213
The Thetford Otters *Chris Gregory* 214
White-beaked Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* on Blakeney Point
Richard Porter & Edward Stubbings 216
Trail cameras - a definite advantage for mammal recording *Francis J.L. Farrow* 218
Monitoring Norfolk's garden mammals through 'Citizen Science' *Mike Toms* 219
Second Norfolk Bat Workers' meeting, 19th February 2011 *Dave & Tony Leech* 225
Systematic List 228

Editorial

On behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society I am pleased to present the annual report on the birds of Norfolk.

Since the last Report, the most significant publication on Norfolk's birds has been the hugely impressive *The Norfolk Bird Atlas - Summer and Winter Distributions 1999-2007* by Moss Taylor and John Marchant. This really is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the work of hundreds of people - authors, designers, photographers, artists and, not least, field-workers! The publication of the Atlas and the results of its structured recording methodology will now provide an invaluable context for the more 'reactive', 'snapshot' data presented here in the annual Bird Report.

Continuing the theme of monitoring the county's common birds, I am delighted to include in this year's Report two substantial articles - the first a study of farmland birds at Courtyard Farm Ringstead, the second a survey of the breeding bird community of Mill Marsh in the Ant valley. Also included are short articles on dusk-flighting Woodcock at Cley and Blakeney and the winter diet of owls on Blakeney Point.

2010 was also a great year for scarce and rare birds in the county. The spring was poor but led to a further instance of successful breeding by a pair of Marsh Warblers. Details of this occurrence are contained in an article. The autumn was outstanding, however, beginning with some excellent and varied August 'falls', continuing with some more great birds in September and ending with some exceptional arrivals of northern irruptive species in October and November. A full account is, of course, contained in the 'Review of the Year' and full details also appear in the Systematic List but the rare bird highlights receive fuller treatment in articles.

My intention in future is to publish full details of all rarities with three or fewer previous occurrences in the county. This year's articles therefore detail Norfolk's first Wilson's Petrel, first apparent Alder Flycatcher and first Northern Harrier, second Trumpeter Finch, second and third Iberian Chiffchaffs and third River Warbler. Also included is the first fully documented Northern Treecreeper record for the county. In addition, articles are also included on two 'late' accepted records from 2009 - Norfolk's first Iceland Redpoll and, hot on the heels of the first, the county's second Icelandic Redwing.

Readers will be familiar with the long-established policy of only publishing records of rare birds when they have been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee or County Records Committee. As in this Report, this inevitably means that the publication of some records is delayed until the following year or even later. However, I plan to make the very occasional exception to this policy for very well-watched and photographed 'high profile' rarities whose omission would significantly detract from the value of the Report for readers. Such is clearly the case with the Blakeney Point *Empidonax* flycatcher of September 2010. This was Norfolk's rarest bird of the year and, for many, its absolute highlight. Its absence from the Report would, I suspect, attract considerable criticism. There is, of course, no doubt that it was an *Empidonax* flycatcher and there is a broad consensus from both sides of the Atlantic that it was an Alder Flycatcher. However, given that the file on the Cornish *Empidonax* flycatcher in 2008, also submitted as an Alder Flyctacher, is still with BBRC and BOURC, a definitive acceptance to species of the Blakeney Point bird may be some way off. In the meantime I have therefore decided to publish the record as an 'apparent' Alder Flycatcher and a future Report will document any eventual official verdict. Such 'premature' publications will, however, always be at the Editor's discretion and will remain very much the exception.

A number of other claims of 'high profile' rarities, birds whose categorisation might warrant review or taxa for which identification criteria have yet to be established remain under consideration by BBRC or BOURC. At the time of writing these include several Ross's and Cackling Geese, Falcated Duck, Marbled Duck, two Macaronesian Shearwaters, Black-eared Kite, Egyptian Vulture, Hudsonian Dunlin, American Herring Gull, Brünnich's Guillemot, three Central Asian/Desert Lesser Whitethroats, Eastern Black Redstart and Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Updates on all these records will

of course be published in the Bird Report as soon as official verdicts are reached.

In a similar vein, sharp-eyed readers will have noticed that a photograph of a Pied Wheatear at Horsey in October 2009 was published in the last Report. This publication was premature as the bird had at the time not yet been accepted by BBRC. The record has, however, now been accepted and so the record takes its rightful place in the Systematic List.

In terms of recording, it has been decided to remove Grey Phalarope from the list of species requiring a description to be submitted to the County Records Committee but Northern Treecreeper has been added.

As promised in last year's Editorial, it has now been possible to provide WeBS counts for the Wash for 2009. These are included after the 2010 tables. However, 2010 figures will not be available until next year's Report.

Finally, I would like to make a couple of pleas. Firstly, it is always disappointing to receive complaints after the Report's publication about 'missing' records. Of course this is sometimes the result of human error somewhere in the long chain of record inputting, collating, transcribing, drafting and editing. Such errors will always creep in and, as is already happening, corrections and additions will be promptly and prominently published in the next Report. Sometimes, however, important records are missing simply because they were not submitted. I would therefore urge all observers to send in as comprehensive a set of notes as possible so as to minimise the number of 'lost' records.

Secondly, the Report is dependent on the work of many people, not least the team of volunteers who turn pages of records into first drafts of the species texts for the Systematic List. We are always looking for additional support with this task so if you are able to help please get in touch with the Recorders, Dave and Jacquie Bridges.

I hope you enjoy this year's Report and have already enjoyed another year of great birding!

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Acknowledgements

The Report is of course a massive team effort. Many thanks go of course to all the observers who have contributed records. Special thanks, however, go to the following:-

Report Production Team
Dave and Jacquie Bridges (County Recorders)
Julian Bhalerao (Photographic Editor)
Tony Leech (Financing and Distribution)
Peter Lindsley (Pre-press work and Layout)

Record Inputting Team
Dave and Jacquie Bridges, Katherine Claydon, Neil Lawton, Peter Morrison and Pat Wileman. Particular thanks are due to David and Pat Wileman for collating all the Cley 10km square records.

Members of the County Records Committee
Tim Allwood, Graham Etherington, Justin Lansdell and Andy Stoddart. Dave Bridges retired from the Committee during the year and was replaced by James McCallum. Jacquie Bridges acts as Secretary.

Species Text Drafters
Tim Allwood, Greg Bond, Dave Bridges, Andy Brown, Peter Clement, Keith Dye, Mick Fiszer, John and Judy Geeson, Vince Hanlon, Gary Hibberd, Justin Lansdell, Neil Lawton, Peter Morrison, Ben Murphy, Mick Saunt and Peter Wilson.

Authors
Peter Allard, Chris Allen, Joe Cockram, Mark Golley, Allan Hale, Justin Lansdell, Dave Leech, Christopher Mason, James McCallum, Ashley McElwee, Richard Millington, Mick Fiszer, Allan Hale, Richard Porter, Kevin Shepherd, Andy Stoddart, Edward Stubbings, Chris Wheeler, Stuart White and John Williamson.

Artists
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Photographers
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Notes for Contributors

The Norfolk Bird Report is an annual publication of records, articles, artwork and photographs relating to all aspects of Norfolk ornithology.

Submission of Records

In submitting records, observers should be guided by the content of this and previous Reports and should submit species in the same systematic order.

All observers are requested to **submit records on a monthly basis** as this helps considerably with managing the workoad and speeding up production of the Report. If it is not possible to submit records until the end of the year, this should be done at the latest **by the end of February of the following year**. Late records cause considerable problems in drafting the Systematic List and their inclusion cannot be guaranteed if received after this deadline. The names of all contributors will be published.

Users of 'Wildlife Recorder' software are asked to submit their records by creating an export file and sending it to the County Recorders by email. This will enable the records to be imported straight into the main database without the need for keying in individual records.

All records and correspondence relating to recording issues should be sent to the County Recorders, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, at 27, Swann Grove, Hempstead Road, Holt NR25 6DP or by email to dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com. Dave and Jacquie can be contacted by telephone on 01263 713249.

Records submitted by email will be acknowledged. If no acknowledgement is received, please confirm receipt by telephone.

National Rarities

National rarities are dealt with by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC). A full list of species and forms considered by BBRC as well as full details of requirements, procedures and a downloadable reporting form are available on the BBRC website www.bbrc.org.uk.

All records of such rarities should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting and not left until the end of the year. National rarities accepted by BBRC will be published in the Report together with the initials of the finder/identifier.

All national rarities should be submitted electronically in the BBRC format and sent to the County Recorders, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, at dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com. Any accompanying sketches, photographs, sound recordings or sonograms should be included as separate attachments.

Records submitted by email will be acknowledged. If no acknowledgement is received, please confirm receipt by telephone.

The submission of descriptions of national rarities is important. Bird news providers do not assess records passed to them and without full submission to BBRC such records cannot be published and will be lost. Finder/identifier details will be published but where these are not known or where the observer is unable/unwilling to submit the record, sightings will be attributed to 'per Recorder'.

County Rarities

Species or forms considered rare at county level are dealt with by the County Records Committee. The Committee currently comprises Tim Allwood, Graham Etherington, Justin Lansdell, James McCallum and Andy Stoddart. Jacquie Bridges acts as Secretary.

Please note that with effect from 2011 Grey Phalarope has been deleted from the County Rarity List and that Northern Treecreeper has been added.

The full list of species or forms requiring descriptions is:-

Taiga Bean Goose (away from the Yare Valley)
Snow Goose
Black Brant
American Wigeon
Ring-necked Duck
Ferruginous Duck
Surf Scoter
White-billed Diver
Cory's Shearwater*
Great Shearwater
Wilson's Petrel
Storm Petrel
Night-heron*
Cattle Egret
Great White Egret*
Purple Heron
White Stork
Black-necked Grebe (at sea)
Black Kite*
Goshawk (away from the Brecks)
Red-footed Falcon
Spotted Crake
Corncrake
American Golden Plover
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Long-tailed Skua
Kumlien's Gull
Sabine's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
White-winged Black Tern
Ring-necked Parakeet
Alpine Swift
European Bee-eater
Woodchat Shrike*
Hooded Crow
Raven
Continental Coal Tit (*ater*)
Willow Tit
Short-toed Lark
Red-rumped Swallow
Greenish Warbler*
Radde's Warbler
Dusky Warbler
Siberian Chiffchaff (*tristis/'fulvescens'*)
Eastern Lesser Whitethroat (*blythi/halimodendri/minula)*
Subalpine Warbler*
Melodious Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Northern Treecreeper (*familiaris*)
Rose-coloured Starling
Dipper*
Icelandic Redwing (*coburni*)
Bluethroat
Tawny Pipit
Red-throated Pipit
Serin
Greenland Redpoll (*rostrata*)
Iceland Redpoll (*islandica*)
Arctic Redpoll*
Parrot Crossbill
Common Rosefinch
Northern Bullfinch (*pyrrhula*)
Ortolan Bunting
Rustic Bunting
Little Bunting

* NB A number of species listed here have rarer forms which still require submission to BBRC. These are Scopoli's Shearwater, American Night-heron, American Great White Egret, Black-eared Kite, Eastern Woodchat Shrike, Balearic Woodchat Shrike, Two-barred Greenish Warbler, Eastern Subalpine Warbler, Moltoni's Subalpine Warbler, Black-bellied Dipper and Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll.

All records of such rarities should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting and not left until the end of the year. County rarities accepted by the County Records Committee will be published in the Report together with the initials of the finder/identifier.

All records of county rarities should be accompanied by written documentation incorporating wherever possible original field notes or sketches and where available/relevant, photographic evidence, sound recordings and sonograms. Records and relevant correspondence should be submitted to the County Recorders, Dave and Jacquie Bridges, at 27, Swann Grove, Hempstead Road, Holt NR25 6DP or by email to dnjnorfolkrec@aol.com. Dave and Jacquie can be contacted by telephone on 01263 713249.

Records submitted by email will be acknowledged. If no acknowledgement is received, please confirm receipt by telephone.

The submission of descriptions of county rarities is important. Bird news providers do not assess

records passed to them and without full submission to the County Records Committee such records cannot be published and will be lost. Finder/identifier details will be published but where these are not known or where the observer is unable/unwilling to submit the record, sightings will be attributed to 'per Recorder'.

Other Records

From time to time the County Recorders and the County Records Committee reserve the right to seek additional details of other records deemed exceptional by virtue of, for example, date, location or numbers. Only those records accepted by the County Records Committee will be published in the Report.

Submission of Articles

Authors should carefully study this issue and follow the style of presentation. Where relevant, taxonomy, nomenclature and species order should follow the list published by the British Ornithologists' Union and which is available on their website at www.bou.org.uk.

Articles for possible publication should be submitted to the Editor, preferably by email to andrew.stoddart@tiscali.co.uk. Alternatively, submissions on CD/DVD or typed manuscripts can be sent to 7, Elsden Close, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6JW. Electronic submissions should be written in Microsoft Word. If typed, submissions should be double-spaced, with wide margins, and should be on one side of the paper only. All articles are accepted on the basis that further editing may be required. Final decisions on inclusion and content rest with the Editor.

Submission of Artwork

Artwork for possible publication should be submitted to the Editor by email to andrew.stoddart@tiscali.co.uk. Alternatively, submissions on CD/DVD or as paper copy can be sent to 7, Elsden Close, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6JW. Copyright remains with artists. Final decisions on inclusion rest with the Editor.

Submission of Photographs

Digital photographs for possible publication should be submitted to the Photographic Editor by email to JulianBhalerao@aol.com. Alternatively, digital submissions on CD/DVD or in print or slide format can be sent to 18, Brook Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8QE. Copyright remains with photographers. Final decisions on inclusion rest with the Editor.

General Issues

All articles, artwork and photographs for possible publication should be received **by 31st March of the following year.**

Every possible effort will be made to take care of all submitted articles, artwork and photographs. However, authors, artists and photographers are advised that neither the Editor nor the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society can be held responsible for any loss or damage which may occur.

Any opinions expressed in articles are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society.

Review of the Year

Justin Lansdell

The year began with high pressure, and intensely cold weather continued to dominate the first half of **January.** As usual, a few rarities lingered from the previous year, chief amongst which were a Lesser Snow Goose amongst the flocks of Pink-footed Geese in the northwest of the county and the long-staying Ring-necked and Ferruginous Ducks on the partially-frozen Broads.

Little else stirred until mid-month but Whitlingham Country Park enjoyed a productive period, attracting a Great Northern Diver, all three scarce grebes and three Smew. Usually scarce, Smew were in evidence across the county in good numbers, doubtless a product of the harsh conditions. Little else rare was found, however, though a Green-winged Teal was at Welney briefly. Nevertheless, there was, as usual, much to enjoy, from the large bugling herds of Bewick's and Whooper Swans in the west of the county to flocks of Shore Larks on the north coast and Taiga Bean and White-fronted Geese in the east.

February started cold and was also very wet. In these challenging conditions little bird movement was noted although a flock of Pale-bellied Brent Geese at Walcott in January moved to the Sea Palling area.

Persistent observers scoured the large Pink-footed Goose flocks in the northwest of the county and once again located a smattering of Barnacle and Tundra Bean Geese while Purple Sandpipers again found the sea-defence reefs of the east coast to their liking. Short-eared Owls were perhaps more obvious than of late but no Great Grey Shrike wintered in the county.

The first half of **March** showed few signs that spring was round the corner, with dry settled conditions and cold nights. The first intrepid spring migrants battled through, followed by a welcome, though surprising, influx of Hooded Crows. Whether a Great White Egret at Thornham on 17th was a product of the southerly winds or a wandering wintering bird is conjecture but the nationwide influx of Alpine Swifts later in the month undoubtedly originated from the south. Norfolk joined in the event with two lingering birds (at Cromer and Hunstanton) enjoyed by many but a female Bluethroat at Weybourne (doubtless a White-spotted) was seen only briefly.

Similar conditions held into **April** and migrants arrived on cue, bringing with them Norfolk's second Iberian Chiffchaff, a singing male at Stiffkey Fen on 3rd, before northerly winds 'closed the door' to overshooting birds for almost a fortnight, the only rarity to get through being a Kentish Plover at Holme on 13th.

For birders anticipating the delights of spring, the wait ended on the 21st with double-figure counts of Ring Ouzels. Next, a singing male White-spotted Bluethroat at Welney on 23rd was to please crowds for the next four months and was followed by another Great White Egret at Scolt Head and the first of three Bee-eaters, at Horsey on 25th. Amongst the more expected migrants, Wheatears reached good numbers and the first Dotterel was found. With the wind still between south and west and above-average temperatures, there were, unsurprisingly, further rare birds, including a Richard's Pipit at Sidestrand on 27th and, on 28th, a Kentish Plover, a Tawny Pipit and a Woodchat Shrike, the latter lingering at Winterton for 18 days. The month concluded with a Lesser Yellowlegs at Wissington and Norfolk's third (and the spring's second) singing male Iberian Chiffchaff, this time at Titchwell.

As **May** arrived, so too did a spell of northerly winds, once again shutting off the supply of migrants, a situation which was to persist for almost two weeks. A brief spell of southerly winds mid-month, however, produced two Black Kites and, best of all, a singing male Western Bonelli's Warbler at Eccles on 14th.

Warm sunshine with temperatures up to 28 degrees held sway until 23rd but migrants were in short supply. However, at the end of the month came more unsettled conditions, the first of a smattering of brief Red-footed Falcons and, in a remarkable case of *déja vu,* a male Trumpeter Finch initially at Blakeney Point settled at Cley and Salthouse to be admired by many, the highlight of a

somewhat disappointing month.

Fortunately, the change of month brought a change of fortunes and although a Thrush Nightingale at Cley on 1st **June** was not easy to see, the same could not be said of a group of 5 Black-winged Stilts at Titchwell and a male Western Subalpine Warbler on Blakeney Point. The same warm and thundery conditions also deposited a brief drake Blue-winged Teal at Cley and over the next few days winds were often from the eastern quarter, bringing typically late spring scarcities such as Red-necked Phalaropes, Red-backed Shrikes and Rosefinches.

The rest of the month was uneventful with often cold conditions (as low as 13 degrees) brought about by spells of northerly winds. Once again, Montagu's Harriers and Continental Black-tailed Godwits retained a toehold in the county as breeding birds while at least twenty Bitterns boomed and Stone Curlews did well too. Red Kites, Mediterranean Gulls and Firecrests also did well, while two singing Savi's and three Marsh Warblers added to the variety, the latter species nesting successfully again.

July saw generally settled conditions and often high humidity, producing Norfolk's third River Warbler at Haddiscoe, the undoubted twitching highlight of the summer.

News also emerged that Spoonbills had settled to breed at Holkham, the first in the county for over 300 years, but elsewhere Sandwich Terns suffered mixed fortunes and the handful of Arctic Terns reared few young.

As ever, it was the waders which indicated the changing seasons, Titchwell hosting a Buff-breasted Sandpiper and, a week later, the first of a dozen Pectoral Sandpipers. Warm weather persisted and two White-rumped Sandpipers were briefly at Breydon and then, on 23rd, a Wilson's Petrel moved west past Sheringham and Cley, a county first and an unexpected start to the autumn's seawatching. Equally unexpected was an unseasonal Hooded Crow which arrived to wander the Cley area for three months from 25th.

By now the weather was more changeable with frontal systems pushing east across the county and a first-summer King Eider which had lingered off the Yorkshire coast relocated to Sheringham and West Runton before continuing to spend the autumn in Suffolk.

August saw little change in the weather and no acceleration in autumn movement, although a Roseate Tern, the only one of the year, was at Scolt Head and then Holme. A brief spell of northwesterly winds produced singles of Cory's Shearwater and Sabine's Gull off the north coast on the 13th following in the wake of a Black Guillemot at Weybourne the previous day.

Mid-month saw the first easterlies of the autumn and early Scandinavian drift migrants quickly responded with a smattering of Wrynecks, Icterine and Barred Warblers and Red-backed Shrikes. Much rarer were a Lesser Grey Shrike at Kelling and Weybourne for three days from the 17th (later relocated on the Isles of Scilly) and a juvenile White-winged Black Tern at Hickling Broad which remained frustratingly distant and elusive on 19th/20th.

A further period of easterly winds dropped in the first Red-necked Phalarope of the autumn at Berney but it was the drift migrants which caught the headlines. Amongst the expected Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts came further Icterine and Barred Warblers, Wrynecks and Red-backed Shrikes as well as four typically early Greenish Warblers and the county's earliest ever autumn Short-toed Lark (on Blakeney Point) but the best birds were perhaps 3 Bluethroats and an elusive Booted Warbler, also on Blakeney Point. This site also hosted an exceptionally early Lapland Bunting on 27th, the first of what was to become a memorable record influx.

The first autumn gales produced a Cory's Shearwater in a large passage of Manx Shearwaters at Sheringham on the 29th, followed next day by a Storm Petrel at the same location. Meanwhile, the Mediterranean Gull roost at Breydon Water reached almost 300.

An anticyclone at the beginning of **September** brought with it light winds and settled conditions though a Corncrake was at Waxham on 1st. Strengthening winds from the eastern quarter from the 5th saw the arrival of more migrants from Scandinavia or further afield, an Ortolan Bunting at Kelling Heath and an Arctic Warbler at Holme for eleven days being the chief prizes.

Mid-September was dominated by Atlantic frontal systems and resultant westerly winds. This

quiet spell was broken only by a Great White Egret at Strumpshaw, an unseasonal Smew in the Wensum valley, two brief Glossy Ibises (at Chedgrave and Breydon) and another Corncrake, this time on Blakeney Point.

However, strong northwest and then northeast winds in the last week of the month produced a vintage spell which was to leave observers excited and exhausted in equal measure. Seawatching produced the largest Gannet movement of the year and the heaviest Great Skua passage ever as well as rarer seabirds in the form of Leach's Petrels, Long-tailed Skuas and Sabine's Gulls but it was to be the passerines which really grabbed the headlines.

The bulk of the arrival was made up of skulking continental Robins and the first autumn thrushes but there was also the only Rosefinch and Little Bunting of the autumn, a few Red-breasted Flycatchers and the first of a good run of Great Grey Shrikes. The year's greatest surprise and the undoubted highlight of the year, however, was an *Empidonax* flycatcher in the Plantation on Blakeney Point, soon considered to be Norfolk's first (and England's second) Alder Flycatcher. The resultant walk out in the continuing gales and heavy rain will linger long in the memory of many. At risk of being overshadowed were other rare birds - Radde's Warblers at Stiffkey and Blakeney Point, a Western Bonelli's Warbler and a Blyth's Reed Warbler at Wells, a Citrine Wagtail at Northrepps and an Eastern Lesser Whitethroat at Stiffkey. Common migrants were present in large numbers too, with Siskins and Chiffchaffs being particularly prominent.

The last few days of the month were unremarkable but as **October** arrived more unsettled weather brought by a slow-moving and deepening Atlantic low produced, on consecutive days, a Wilson's Phalarope from the west and a Red-throated Pipit from the east whilst the extraordinary Lapland Bunting influx peaked at 100 at Happisburgh.

A ridge of high pressure followed with light easterly winds and a juvenile Pallid Harrier at Holme, retrospectively identified from photographs posted on the internet.

Mid-month brought a further influx of continental Robins and an incredible six Red-flanked Bluetails. Other rare birds arrived too - another Radde's Warbler (in Great Yarmouth), an Olive-backed Pipit (at Stiffkey) and an influx of Pallas's Warblers. Also arriving were the first of what was soon to become a deluge of Waxwings. Less dramatic but equally noteworthy were small arrivals of Northern Bullfinches and Mealy Redpolls, two more Eastern Lesser Whitethroats (at Holme and Stiffkey) and a male Siberian Stonechat (at Kelling), the latter now much rarer than formerly.

The next ten days were quieter but an American Golden Plover was found amongst the Golden Plovers at Cley on the 20th and remained in the area for a month. A Green-winged Teal was located in the same area two days later and the transatlantic trio was completed by a White-rumped Sandpiper at Hickling on 25th, this day also producing the autumn's peak Little Auk counts.

A Glossy Ibis, for the moment a more regular species in the county, remained at Welney from 24th for 22 days whilst the month concluded with news of a possible juvenile Northern Harrier on the north coast but it was to remain elusive and unconfirmed for another month. Other month-end highlights were a Northern Long-tailed Tit (at Stiffkey) and a Siberian Chiffchaff as well as an inland Velvet Scoter at Filby Broad.

The start of **November** saw the year's heaviest Little Gull passage in strong onshore winds before lighter winds on 7th produced a large movement of Eider along the north coast as well as a Black Guillemot. Further onshore winds two days later brought two Leach's and one Storm Petrel plus a late Cory's Shearwater at Sheringham.

A Cattle Egret at Welney on 15th was the year's sole record but more impressive must have been a record 3000 Snipe at Burnham Deepdale. Brief northeasterly winds in the last week produced two typically late Hume's Warblers, at Holme on 22nd and Wells from 29th, as well as another Siberian Chiffchaff, although neither could compete for looks with an adult male Arctic Redpoll on the saltings of Titchwell on 23rd. Finally, at the month end, the necessary photographs confirmed that Norfolk's first Northern Harrier was indeed wintering and for much of the remainder of the year it lingered around Titchwell and Thornham.

December was to be a tough month for birds. An Arctic Redpoll joined the Hume's Warbler at

Wells but both disappeared with the onset of a bitterly cold spell which was to result in up to eight centimeters of lying snow, making many roads impassable and birding near-impossible.

Severe cold weather continued for much of the month with overnight temperatures as low as minus nine degrees and daytime temperatures often struggling to climb above freezing. Bird highlights included a Northern Treecreeper trapped at Kelling on 12th and, next day, a Lesser White-fronted Goose amongst the Taiga Bean Geese at Cantley which was to remain until the year end.

Mid-month saw the arrival of a record flock of Pale-bellied Brent Geese at Breydon and a Hooded Crow settled in for the winter at Cantley whilst an Arctic Redpoll began a prolonged but unpredictable stay in a Weybourne garden from 22nd.

Evening Movements of Woodcock over Cley and Blakeney

Richard Porter

Woodcock (*Gary Wright*)

At dusk on 13th January 2010 at Friary Hills, Blakeney, Edward Stubbings and Ajay Tegela counted 26 Woodcock flighting north to the Blakeney Freshes. They observed a similar number on 18th. On hearing this, I started watching over my garden in Cley and between the 23rd and 31st January observed up to seven in an evening, also flying northwards in the pre-dark period. Curious to know how widespread this movement was, I organised a 'mini-survey' from Salthouse to Blakeney Village from 1st February to 17th March. Observers were given specific points and asked to spend 30 minutes from sunset to darkness counting any Woodcock which flew over northwards. The results are shown in Table 1.

Woodcock started to flight towards the coastal marshes at about sunset but the majority were in the 10-15 minutes before it was totally dark. Thus a number of flighting birds were likely to have been missed and the counts should therefore be regarded as conservative. The 'band-width' over which it was possible to count was considered to be between 50 and 100 metres, say 75 metres.

The data show that the highest counts were made over the stretch from the sluice over the River Glaven at the western edge of Cley to the Blakeney duckpond, a distance of 1.4km. Whilst extrapolation should be made with caution, assuming that the movement was on a broad front, taking the average of the highest counts (irrespective of date) at the four count points (27) and assuming that these were made over a 75m width then the numbers involved in the evening flight would be in the order of 500 birds - all flying towards the Blakeney Freshes.

Similarly, the numbers passing north over Cley Village, a stretch of 0.7km, would be about 50, these birds apparently heading for the western marshes of the Cley NWT Reserve. The numbers flighting north from the 2km stretch from Salthouse to Walsey Hills appeared to be negligible, though the data was insufficient to extrapolate.

The early months of 2010 were very cold and this may have influenced the pattern of movement and numbers involved. It is known that in winter Woodcock feed in woods by day and in pastures at night (Cramp & Simmons, 1983) but in times of cold weather, when inland pastures are frozen, it would seem likely that birds in woods near coastal areas fly to the less frozen brackish or saline marshes. Two evening counts made during a cold snap in late December 2010 at the River Glaven at the west end of Cley were four and 18, suggesting that the movements in early 2010 were not unusual. The birds probably originated from local woodland as the maximum recorded distance flown from woods to night-time feeding fields in winter appears to be 2.4km (see Cramp & Simmons, 1983).

The Woodcock is a common winter visitor to Norfolk (as well as being a passage migrant and breeding bird). The highest previous winter count in the Blakeney/Cley area was 60 on 3rd December 1988. Elsewhere on the north Norfolk coast, winter counts of over 1000 have been recorded at Holkham Park in January 1996 and January 1997 (Taylor *et al.,* 1999). The species, is, however, surely hugely under-recorded, a recent set of winter bird population estimates for Britain proposing a figure of 1,400,000, making it easily Britain's commonest wintering wader! (Musgrove *et al.,* 2011).

Probably the most significant fact to emerge from this brief survey is that the Blakeney Freshes and areas of Cley NWT are an important feeding area for Woodcock in winter, at least in periods of cold weather.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank those observers who took part in the survey, namely Tony Aberdein, Simon Aspinall, Leo Batten, Roger Brownsword, Kath & Mick Claydon, Steve Harris, Julia Porter, Edward Stubbings, Ajay Tegala, Chris Wheeler and, of course, Barbara & Martin Woodcock.

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Woodcock counts Jan-March 2010.

	Jan						Feb																Mar										
	13	18	23	26	30	31	1	2	3	4	11	13	14	15	17	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	11	12	17	22
Temp @ 1800	1	7	5	-2	2	0	-1	3	2	7	2	2	1	2	3	2	-2	0	3	6	5	3	4	5	3	2	6	0	4	2	2	11	10
Salthouse							2	0					0																				
Walsey Hills														0																			
Cley site A						1	2				5																				0		
Cley site B							4		2										4														
Cley site C								1	2	1										0						1							
Cley site D								2											4														
Cley site E			3	4	6	7	7	3	1	0						2	11					2					1						
Wiveton bridge											4							25					7										
Glaven sluice							25					22			7			52	17	31	22		13	24		38		40		49		5	0
Wiveton Hall																			8				17										
Friary Hills	26	26		21			29												10				22	21	11	14			17				
Blakeney pond																			10														

The Breeding Birds of Courtyard Farm Ringstead - a five-year evaluation of the status of the breeding birds of a north Norfolk organic lowland mixed farm

John R. Williamson

Foreword

by Peter Melchett (Managing Director, Courtyard Farms Ltd.)

On a wet September morning in 1935, seven people gathered at Courtyard Farm for a day's partridge shooting. Despite starting late, by lunchtime they had shot three Pheasants, ten hares and a record 820 partridges. The day ended early with the one of the syndicate members, Sir John Arnott, saying "*This is too much like a slaughter*". The head gamekeeper, who wanted to carry on for the whole day, grumbled "*...and we didn't get what we oughta*".

At the time, almost all the work on the farm was still done by people and horses. The Great Depression of the 1930s forced the Wharton family, who had farmed Courtyard Farm for three generations as tenants of the Hunstanton Estate, to sell up and leave. Raymond Wharton recorded every detail of the sale. He sold 27 horses, 2 foals, 1 mule, 13 cows, 641 sheep, 30 pigs and 159 chickens. The manure from all these animals provided the goodness needed to grow crops, and weeds and disease were controlled by the famous Norfolk four-course rotation, with different types of crops grown each year.

Our Wildlife Disappears

In 1935, when 820 partridges were shot, around 400 birds were present at the start of the spring breeding season. In the 1950s, when my father bought the farm, we still counted up to 400 Grey Partridges each spring. By 1969 this had dropped to 50, and during the 1980s the numbers went as low as 16 birds. This extraordinary catastrophe for Grey Partridges happened all over the country, and they became extinct in many areas. The numbers of most wild birds that depended on farmland for food and shelter also crashed. Animals that were common in Norfolk farms 50 years ago went into an astonishing decline, including hares, harvest mice, moles, and butterflies. Wildflowers disappeared too.

At first the gamekeepers, whose job it was to produce enough partridges for people to shoot, blamed the disaster on exceptional weather. I remember seeing dead partridge chicks on the farm as a boy in the 1960s and being told they had died of thirst. Wild animals have always had bad as well as good years, and it took until the 1980s for anyone in an official position to recognise that a disaster had taken place. The terrible loss happened because of a combination of changes over the last 60 years. After thousands of years of farming, only in the last 60 years have we used chemical sprays and artificial fertilisers. Mixed farms with animals and crops declined, factory farming and chemical use grew. Artificial fertilisers actually kill life in the soil. Grey Partridge chicks need to eat insects in the first few weeks of their life, and chemical sprays kill insects so young partridges, Tree Sparrows, Corn Buntings, Yellowhammers and Skylarks starve to death. Weedkillers kill the native plants that hares and Turtle Doves depend on. Fifty years ago, most crops were planted in the spring, and fields left over winter provided food for wildlife. Now most crops are planted in the autumn and the sprayed fields provide no food for wintering wildlife. So birds and other animals have declined because adults starve to death in the winter, and their young starve to death in the spring. Many do not accept that modern farming has done all this damage and have put the blame elsewhere. People walking in the countryside are accused of disturbing wildlife. More popular villains are Magpies, Crows and foxes.

Walkers Welcome

Our experience proves that walkers and predators such as Magpies are not to blame. Thirty years ago we set up new public footpaths around the farm, and since then thousands of people have walked here every year. For the last 35 years we haven't killed animals like stoats and weasels, foxes or Jays, owls or Magpies. People walking around the farm are almost certain to see Magpies and Jays and in the spring they will see eggs that these birds have eaten. If Magpies or walkers really were responsible for the decline in wildlife, we wouldn't have many other birds on the farm.

Wildlife Returns

In fact, over the last twelve years, we have seen wildlife return as we changed to organic farming. We have stopped using artificial fertilisers and sprays that kill insects or weeds. Life has returned to the soil. Molehills back in our fields show that the worms that moles eat are thriving again. The soil is providing insects for others to feed on, as well as goodness for the crops. We have four times the number of Skylarks and three times the number of hares since we started to go organic. Autumn flocks of Lapwing, Golden Plover and Curlew are back, in greater numbers and staying longer than they have for 40 years. Both Green Woodpeckers and Barn Owls have breeding territories on the farm for the first time for nearly 50 years. Migratory Turtle Doves returned to the north of the farm after an absence of 40 years.

In winter we now have fields of grass and clover, and fields sown with a winter cover crop. This holds the goodness for the barley, wheat and peas sown in the spring. All this means that we not only have more wildlife breeding on the farm in the spring and summer but far more surviving the lean, cold days of winter.

During the last 50 years, the English countryside became a desert. Even at Courtyard Farm, where we planted new woods, put land aside for wildlife, restricted chemical spraying and kept beef cattle, the declines in wildlife continued. What we have learnt over the last few years is that this can be changed. Colour, movement, and natural sounds can return to the Norfolk countryside. We need a new philosophy of farming. This is not going backwards. Organic farming can produce as much or more than chemical farming, especially in developing countries. At Courtyard, we use the latest science. We have modern, safe and sophisticated machinery and, when we have to, modern medicines for our livestock (although the animals are so healthy that it's rarely necessary). Organic farming provides more jobs, far better welfare for farm animals, uses less energy, and produces healthier, tastier food.

A Brighter Future

The Grey Partridges at Courtyard Farm reached their low point of just 16 birds during the 1980s. We started to go organic in the 1990s and the number climbed to 40. In the spring of 2001 and 2002 numbers rose as high as 80-90 birds, and in recent years have settled back to around 40, more than double the low point.

We have a wonderful profusion of predators, foxes, stoats, weasels, Crows, Magpies and Jays, all killed by gamekeepers years ago. This means we won't get back to the number of birds there were at the time of that record partridge shoot in 1935, but our experience shows that you can have a modern, profitable farming system, producing healthy, good quality food, while bringing wildlife back to the British countryside.

Peter Melchett
Courtyard Farm
March 2011

Introduction

Spring counts of pairs of Grey Partridges have been recorded at Courtyard Farm from 1926 to the present day. These counts provide a fascinating, if somewhat depressing, insight into the history of Grey Partridges in the area. Details noted by the head gamekeeper, Mr J. R. Wright, in a Hunstanton game record book tell of the record shoot on September 27th 1935 on the 'Ringstead beat', much of which is within the current boundaries of Courtyard Farm, including Ringstead Common. On that September morning four syndicate members and three guests bagged a total 820 partridges. The Courtyard Farm spring counts of Grey Partridges around this time indicate a potential breeding population of c.170-200 pairs, suggesting that the vast majority, if not all, of the partridges that constituted the record bag would have been Greys. The catastrophic crashes in the numbers of many species and forms of wildlife, in particular the Grey Partridge breeding population, are amongst the catalysts that prompted the change to organic farming practices, and subsequently the survey work currently being undertaken at Courtyard Farm.

Situated in the beautiful north Norfolk countryside, Courtyard Farm lies just a short distance from the sea which can clearly be seen from the higher ground at the northern extremes of the farm. The farm is relatively small by modern intensive farming standards at c.800 acres, of which: c.740 acres is dedicated to arable farming including c.120 acres of permanent grassland (grass and wildflower meadows for controlled grazing and hay-making); c.30 acres is established mixed woodland; c.14 acres is common land (mainly grass, bracken, thorn scrub and mature trees); c.10 acres is relatively recent plantation woodland (native species such as wild cherry, field maple, beech, ash etc.).

The basic principles of organic farming are based on maintaining a good, healthy soil quality by restoring nitrogen levels in the soil by including two years of nitrogen-fixing red or white clover in the six-year arable rotation. Winter cover crops, ploughed-in in the spring, hold nitrogen for subsequent crops and natural organic farm animal waste is recycled. No artificial fertilisers or pesticides are used on the land. In addition to this, organic livestock are reared to high animal welfare standards involving open spaces and natural organic food - they are not routinely treated with antibiotics nor given artificial feed additives. There has been no comprehensive predator control on the farm for over 25 years.

The positive effects of these changes can be seen in many different ways. Not only has wildlife returned to the farm, but for the first time in 50 years, since the onset of intensive post-war farming in the UK, the number of farm workers fully-employed on the farm has increased.

Wheat, barley, peas, clover and vetch are grown for organic seed, utilising an organic crop rotation practice that leaves autumn cereal stubbles undersown with nitrogen replacement crops such as red and white clover, rye grass and bird's foot trefoil, to stand over the winter. Bare soil is not a common sight on organic farms and *Phacelia* is sown in the autumn to hold nitrogen, and to control weeds.

Livestock on the farm comprises a breeding herd of the traditional and distinctive East Anglian Red Poll cattle, for organic beef production, and traditional Duroc x Saddleback and Tamworth pigs are reared in an open environment for organic pork.

The establishment of the permanent grassland and wildflower meadows quickly benefited the insect and invertebrate populations on the farm. There are few, if any, places in the Norfolk countryside where such impressive carpets of cowslip, ox-eye daisy, vetch and knapweed can be seen. These permanent grasslands, made up of over 30 wild flowers and 15 grasses, combined with the numerous established permanent 20m and 6m field headlands and the adjacent flourishing hedgerows, produce the large insect populations that provide the prey for the young of many species of breeding birds.

Whilst there is no game-shooting at Courtyard Farm, one of the estates immediately adjacent to Courtyard Farm is a game-shooting estate, where large numbers of both Pheasant and Red-legged Partridge are released annually for autumn shooting. Brown hares, the majority likely being overspill from the high numbers on Courtyard Farm, are also shot there. Whilst shooting does obviously take

its toll on wild birds as well as released stock, this estate does also provide additional feed and shelter belts for their stock that clearly benefit other species during the autumn and early winter before they are ploughed in.

A Higher Level Stewardship Scheme is in operation on the farm, where visitors can find designated car-parking, around 15km of permissive pathways and leaflets which briefly explain the basics of organic farming and the reasoning behind the conversion of Courtyard Farm to those farming practices.

Geology

Courtyard Farm is located just east of the chalk escarpment that forms Ringstead Downs and just to the south of the north Norfolk marshes, situated in predominantly light, well-drained, chalky soils containing large quantities of flint. It is situated in one of the driest areas in the county with an average rainfall of below 625mm per annum, and lies just inside the 4°C January isotherm and within the 15°C.

At the sheltered southern end of the farm the land rises from around 30m above sea level in the southwestern corner of the farm to approximately 41m above sea level just east of the farmhouse itself, then falls again to just 17m above sea level at the Burnham road before once again rising to its highest point of about 48m above sea level on the northern extreme of the farm, beyond which the land falls away towards the north coast marshes.

Habitat Diversity

Being a mixed organic lowland farm, Courtyard Farm offers a greater diversity of habitats for breeding birds than many intensively farmed non-organic lowland farms:

Grassland

Two large areas of grassland and wild flower meadows are left to flower in spring and summer, and then grazed sympathetically by the livestock during the autumn. Although these meadows have Higher Level Stewardship permissive paths mown through them, dog-walkers are requested to keep their dogs on leads at all times and ground-nesting species including Quail and Grey and Red-legged Partridge have nested in the open grassland whilst Skylark nest annually.

Woodland and Plantations

As mentioned previously there are two stands of established woodland, comprising mainly turkey oaks and sweet chestnut in the northern wood (with a variable understorey of holly, ash, hazel etc.), and mainly beech and English oak in the southern wood with an understorey of laurel, bird cherry and hazel. In both woods, non-native species like snowberry, Japanese privet and sycamore are gradually being removed.

Several relatively recent plantations (either new plantings or extensions to existing woodland) contain native tree and shrub species such as ash, wild cherry, flowering currant, broom, field maple, oak, birch etc. These vary from almost fully-grown woodland with limited understorey or ground cover, to very recent sapling and shrub plantations with grass between the saplings.

Ponds

Courtyard Farm has a total of five ponds, varying in surface size and location from two woodland ponds and one orchard pond at c.4-6m^2, a field pond of c.12m^2 surrounded by scrub and an open livestock paddock pond of c.30m^2. All five ponds were restored during the winter of 2009/10, dredging out the accumulated debris, relining with clay and landscaping to provide shallow areas for wildlife. Surrounding vegetation already shows signs of recovery and it is hoped that all signs of restoration work will have disappeared by the spring of 2011.

Hedgerows

Almost all of the Courtyard Farm hedgerows can be traced from Ordnance Survey maps to the period of Enclosure. These hedgerows are dominated by quickthorn that provide an impressive wild harvest of berries and fruits as well as producing suitable growth to provide stock-proof field boundaries. There is also a tree- and shrub-lined 'green lane' crossing the farm in an approximately north-south direction. From old maps, part of this is known to have been moved to change a triangular field to a more workable rhomboid shape. The more modern part of this hedgerow, although over 200 years old, is notably less productive in terms of both wild berries and breeding bird territories.

Generally speaking the hedgerows in the southern and low-lying central section of the farm tend to be denser and come into leaf earlier in the spring than do those on the more exposed northern section of the farm. Hedgerow maintenance is carried out in the widespread modern manner, flailing during the late-autumn and winter with a tractor-mounted hedge-flail, with each hedgerow being cut once approximately every 8-10 years. The cutting process has a detrimental effect on hedgerow breeding species such as Lesser Whitethroat, Common Whitethroat and Yellowhammer for the first breeding season following cutting, but breeding numbers appear to return to much the same as those before cutting in the second season.

Future plans will see some stretches of the Courtyard Farm hedgerows maintained with traditional hedge-laying techniques to make them both stock-proof and wildlife friendly.

Commons

Ringstead Common lies at the heart of Courtyard Farm, straddling the Burnham road. To the north of the road is a patch of thorn and elder scrub over an old marl pit, adjoining a row of field maples that border the winter cattle shed. There is also another patch of thorn scrub at the eastern end of the common, where there is also a small patch of gorse scrub. Open grassland lies between the patches of scrub. To the south of the road lies more extensive thorn scrub mixed with ash, field maple, sycamore etc and bordered on the southern edge by thorn hedge. The centre of this section of the common is mainly bracken with some small areas of grass at the western end.

Just beyond the western limit of the farm (south of the Burnham road), lies Thornham Common, an area of tall thorn and elder scrub with very little understorey or ground cover, other than grass, that in some ways resembles an orchard.

Livestock Enclosures

Other than the winter cattle shed, an open gabled shelter with slatted wooden sides above masonry lower walls, there are no permanent livestock enclosures on the farm. The cattle are kept on grassland or clover throughout the majority of the year and brought under shelter to feed on silage during the winter. The pigs are contained within electric fencing, being allowed to root freely whilst being fed supplementary pellets. The pig shelters are constructed from straw bales and a canvas covered frame. All livestock are moved regularly, in the case of cattle and sheep, to avoid over-grazing and to distribute natural organic fertiliser, and in the case of pigs, for the same reasons, but also to avoid areas of land having the surface stripped by rooting which can lead to a loss of valuable nutrients in the soil.

The open aspect to the livestock husbandry on the farm gives virtually unrestricted access to the insects that accumulate around livestock on any farm, and many bird species take advantage of the supply of food that livestock farming provides in one way or another, in both winter and summer.

Arable Crops

Cereal crops on the farm include wheat and barley, both sown in early spring providing breeding habitat for ground-nesting species. Spring sown legumes include peas and vetch, the former (in years of taller, better crops) has provided habitat for breeding Common Whitethroat and the latter (in its infancy as a crop on the farm) may provide cover for ground-nesting birds.

Field Headlands and Margins

Permanent 20m, 6m and 2m field headlands are in place on the farm, forming weedy margins at the base of hedgerows and the edges of woodlands and plantations. These headlands provide both nesting cover for species such as Grey and Red-legged Partridges and Pheasants, and insect food for hedgerow and ground-nesting species. Livestock are occasionally allowed to graze headlands in autumn to provide a means of controlling scrub invasion and excessive growth; they are also mown every few weeks to keep scrub at bay.

Orchards

A small, existing orchard immediately north of the farmhouse, has recently been restored and replanted where necessary using traditional old English fruiting trees. In future years this area will hopefully not only provide fruit for the farmhouse but also a welcome supply of windfall fruit and the insect life associated with fruiting trees.

Farm Buildings, Stables and Outhouses

The name Courtyard Farm is derived from the layout of stables and a flint-walled drying barn, arranged in such a manner as to provide a sheltered and enclosed concrete courtyard. The farmhouse itself, showing apparent Dutch and Flemish influence in its flintwork structure (in fact adapted when the farm was bought by Lord Julian Melchett in 1959) sits immediately north of the courtyard with further stables, outhouses, barns and cottages to the east and south. These buildings provide suitable nesting habitat for, amongst others, Stock Dove, Starling, Swallow, Jackdaw and both Tree and House Sparrows.

Field Survey Work

In addition to the Breeding Bird Survey data presented in the following pages, field survey work currently being undertaken at Courtyard Farm involves a Winter Bird Survey (currently in its fourth winter and commissioned to determine which areas of organic farms are most attractive to bird species in winter), a nestbox monitoring scheme and both spring Grey Partridge counts and brown hare surveys for the Game Conservancy Council.

Breeding Bird Survey Methodology

Following two years of trial survey work in 2004/05, the former conducted by Ashley Murray, the latter by James McCallum, it was decided by Lord Peter Melchett, Managing Director of Courtyard Farms Ltd., to continue with full breeding bird survey work at Courtyard Farm in an attempt to evaluate the apparent increase in the number of breeding birds (and number of breeding species) from the time when organic farming practices were adopted, and ultimately to present the data in a manner that can be compared directly to data from other areas in the United Kingdom and ultimately also against non-organic, intensively farmed, lowland mixed farms.

Following a brief introductory meeting with Lord Peter Melchett and a guided tour of the farm, kindly conducted by James McCallum, John Williamson was commissioned to undertake the survey work required.

The breeding bird survey is conducted between early spring (late February to early March) and mid-summer (early August). The ongoing methods of observation and recording remain as unchanged as possible from the initial trial survey years to allow for direct year-on-year comparison of results. A total of eleven full survey days are carried out during the survey period, for the best part in favourable weather conditions when birds are likely to be singing, nest-building or feeding young. The size of the farm and the walking involved dictates that it is surveyed in two sections, namely those areas north and south of the Burnham road that conveniently splits the farm into two areas of a roughly similar size. Thus a total of twenty-two visits are made to the farm, with half-day surveys of the northern section and southern section of the farm being on successive days where weather

permits, or at least as close as possible in date. Surveys are mainly undertaken in the early morning but a number of evening visits are also included to increase the likelihood of recording owl activity.

The first two full survey days are aimed primarily at the early breeding resident species with particular attention being paid to mature woodland, scrub and isolated hedgerow trees in both the northern and southern sections of the farm. The remaining survey days involve a number of pre-determined transects being walked that are regularly alternated or reversed on any visit to avoid being in the same place at the same time of day on every visit, and to ensure all areas and habitats are covered.

The British Trust for Ornithology Common Bird Census (CBC) techniques form the basis of the recording methodology, with territories being confirmed when singing is recorded at any location in any two of three successive visits, or nest-building, food-carrying, or any other breeding-related activity is recorded. Occasional follow-up observations were made where required to ensure that as far as possible, nothing was missed, particularly involving owl activity.

Breeding Bird Survey Results

The classified list below follows the order of *The British List: a checklist of the birds of Britain* (7th edition, July 2006), published by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) and represents the results of the Courtyard Farm breeding bird surveys conducted during the years 2006-10. The list consists of 12 species of the 19 on the UK Farmland Bird Indicator List that have bred regularly at Courtyard Farm during the full breeding bird survey period. A further five species on the UK Farmland Bird Indicator List that are recorded at Courtyard Farm as either passage migrants, or as occasional visitors (Kestrel, Lapwing, Yellow Wagtail, Rook and Reed Bunting), did not breed during the survey period and are thus not considered here.

For completeness, and to avoid confusion, the English vernacular names are those first listed (in bold), followed, where relevant, by the International English name as defined by the International Ornithological Congress (in bold, inside parentheses), followed by the species Latin name (in italics). On the following line its current status in Norfolk, and its current UK Data List status (both in bold immediately below the species name) are also listed.

Breeding data trends have been extracted from the websites of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) for the UK Farmland Birds Indicator and from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for breeding bird data for the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and Northern Ireland), all England and East of England.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Common resident. Red List.

Possibly a species in gentle decline at Courtyard Farm with numbers now returned to the level at the start of the full survey period following a period of slight increase in the years 2007/08. Whilst it is clear that standing stubbles are vital to winter survival for this species it is also possible that the provision of a number of drum grain feeders around the farm was in part responsible for the increase in numbers immediately after their provision. Food availability, particularly in late winter and very early spring, is known to have an effect on the numbers of Grey Partridges successfully over-wintering, and thus the numbers in the subsequent breeding season.

Comparison against the BTO Breeding Bird Survey data for organic farms in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk indicates that the trend of gentle decline of Grey Partridges is mirrored in those regions with the exception of the sizeable decline recorded in 2007 at Courtyard Farm. These trends appear to represent a less severe decline on organic lowland farms than is evident across much of the UK, though it should be noted that sample sizes are relatively small and comparison of data should be made with caution.

The distribution of Grey Partridge territories at Courtyard Farm is an almost exact 50:50 split between the northern and southern sections of the farm, clearly representing the distribution of suitable breeding cover at the base of hedgerows and in weedy headlands.

Whilst the decline at Courtyard Farm appears to be a gentle one, the next few years may hold the key to this species' future breeding density as the fast-increasing population of Red-legged Partridges will doubtless lead to nest-site competition and whilst it is true that Red-legged Partridges will happily nest in habitat suitable for Grey Partridges, the reverse is not always true.

Grey Partridge trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: 0*	*2008-9: –10*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: –50*	*2008-9: –20*
England:	*1995-2008: –44*	*2008-9: –27*
East of England:	*1995-2008: –42*	*2008-9: –35*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: –87*	

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Fairly common resident. Amber List.

Despite a number of years of relative stability this species is now in apparent decline at Courtyard Farm with a c.40% drop in numbers during the survey period, 31.6% of which has occurred in the period 2008-10.

Despite an increase in numbers recorded during BTO Breeding Bird Survey work on organic lowland farmland across Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk in 2007, the current trend now indicates a decline in those areas to a similar level to that recorded at Courtyard Farm during the full survey period 2006-10.

Distribution of nest sites at Courtyard Farm is at a ratio of around 2:1 in favour of the southern section of the farm with, as would perhaps be expected, a notable emphasis on the farm building complex where suitable nesting sites are most abundant. There is some competition between Jackdaws, owls and Stock Doves for any suitable nest boxes on the farm. Stock Doves are the more passive species and thus are most often usurped by Jackdaws and both Tawny and Barn Owls. Other possible factors affecting nest site availability for Stock Doves may be: (i) a number of old wooden nestboxes becoming dilapidated; and (ii) ongoing woodland management that may have removed a few suitable tree holes.

As large flocks of Stock Doves are recorded on Courtyard Farm during the Winter Bird Survey it appears possible that availability of food is adequate, at very least during the autumn.

Stock Dove trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: –36*	*2008-9: –20*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: 0*	*2008-9: +6*
England:	*1995-2008: –1*	*2008-9: +10*
East of England:	*1995-2008: –9*	*2008-9: +26*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: +55*	

WOODPIGEON (Common Wood Pigeon) *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident. Green List.

Woodpigeons are renowned singers when loafing in trees adjacent to feeding areas and this can lead to recording of a false representation of breeding territories by the unwary. As a consequence this species was not surveyed in the trial survey years and only partly surveyed in 2006, since when a 293% increase has been recorded at Courtyard Farm. More realistically, an increase of 22% has been recorded during the period 2007-10. These figures are in line with the increases listed below in the trends for the UK and all England, but are slightly down on the trend for East of England.

The increase recorded at Courtyard Farm does not reflect the sharp decline recorded in breeding Woodpigeons in 2009 on organic farms in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

Distribution of Woodpigeon territories is almost entirely concentrated around the mature areas of woodland in both the north and south sections of the farm with the odd few pairs nesting in the top of

the thorn scrub on Ringstead Common.

Woodpigeon trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: +22*	*2008-9: –7*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: +35*	*2008-9: –7*
England:	*1995-2008: +43*	*2008-9: –6*
East of England:	*1995-2008: +57*	*2008-9: –16*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: +125*	

TURTLE DOVE (European Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur*

Fairly common, though declining, summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Present as a breeding species throughout the survey period but in steadily decreasing numbers. The decline of this species in the United Kingdom is both well documented and much lamented.

Direct comparison against BTO data for other organic lowland farms in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk indicates a trend of decline almost exactly the same as that recorded at Courtyard Farm. The decline recorded at Courtyard Farm and other organic farms in the East of England has been slower than that recorded on non-organic farms across the UK, all England and East of England, but it would unfortunately be wrong to suggest that the local breeding population is anything other than in a critical state.

Singing males at Courtyard Farm have declined by 60% in the period 2007-10, from a peak of five territories in 2007 to just two in 2010. In fact, it appears possible that both singing males located in 2010 were either unpaired, or both nests failed early in proceedings as both territories were apparently deserted by late July.

Distribution of the few remaining territories is exclusively within the confines of Ringstead Common and adjacent thorn scrub at the heart of the farm.

Turtle Dove trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: –50*	*2008-9: –50*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: –70*	*2008-9: +4*
England:	*1995-2008: –70*	*2008-9: +4*
East of England:	*1995-2008: –73*	*2008-9: –10*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: –89*	

JACKDAW (Western Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula*

Very common resident. Green List.

This annually breeding species shows no change over the full survey period with ten territories recorded in both 2006 and 2010. An increase of 30% was recorded between the years 2006 and 2008 but this has fallen away again in subsequent years to return to the levels of 2006. It is possible that the poor condition of some of the artificial nest sites available, efforts made in recent years to keep Jackdaws out of the farm buildings where nest-building materials cause too much mess, and the general lack of natural nesting holes are both governing the numbers of territories recorded in any one year at Courtyard Farm.

The unimproved grassland at Courtyard Farm is swathed in Jackdaws for much of the summer, as are the pig enclosures during autumn, suggesting that food is plentiful in one form or another for much of the year. It is clear that the overall decline in Jackdaws of c.23% over the full survey period 2006-10 at Courtyard Farm does not compare well against the figures for the period 1995-2008 over much of the UK, perhaps lending credence to the theory mooted above regarding the condition of available nest sites on the farm. However, direct comparison of the organic data from Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk clearly shows an almost identical level of decline over the period 2006-09 as that recorded at Courtyard Farm.

Territorial distribution of this species is entirely in the southern section of the farm where a

number of artificial holes are provided in a wooden dovecote and in the gable end wall of a large flint barn. Occasionally other sites are used, such as natural tree holes, Stock Dove and owl boxes, but to date all of these have been located in the sheltered southern section of the farm.

Historically, Jackdaws only started feeding on Courtyard Farm after 1998, when the farm went organic and entered Higher Level Stewardship. Subsequently, nesting by Jackdaws at Courtyard Farm commenced slightly before the survey period, when Feral Pigeons using the nesting holes in the large flint barn were removed. The first attempt by Jackdaws to use the barn for nesting was thwarted by the temporary arrival of a pair of Kestrels, but the number of territories quickly rose in subsequent years to the ten recorded in 2006.

Jackdaw trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: 0*	*2008-9: –23*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: +36*	*2008-9: +6*
England:	*1995-2008: +43*	*2008-9: +3*
East of England:	*1995-2008: +106*	*2008-9: –7*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: +136*	

SKYLARK (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

This is one of the key lowland farmland species that are often quoted when discussing the state of farmland birds. Fortunately, at Courtyard Farm, this species has bred in both good and relatively stable numbers throughout the full survey period with just a c.10% decline noted during 2006-10.

The trend at Courtyard Farm clearly opposes that across much of England where a decline of 51% is indicated by the UK Farmland Bird Indicator in the period 1970-2007 and the decline of 27% in East of England during the period 1995-2008. Direct comparison of Linclonshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk data shows that the trends at Courtyard Farm are largely similar to those across other organic farms in the region.

During survey work this species is not counted after mid-May when everyday farming activities inevitably cause the destruction or desertion of a few nests. It appears to be quite normal for adults from these disturbed territories to re-lay, often close by, thus clouding the true numbers of pairs present if counting continues beyond mid-May.

Distribution of territories favours the more sheltered southern section of the farm at a ratio of c.1.8:1, however, the distribution of the favoured crops and unimproved grasslands are more likely to be the governing factor deciding the breeding distribution for this ground-nesting species.

Skylark trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: –10*	*2008-9: +1*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: –11*	*2008-9: 0*
England:	*1995-2008: –19*	*2008-9: –5*
East of England:	*1995-2008: –27*	*2008-9: –6*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: –51*	

WHITETHROAT (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

This species shows a remarkably consistent set of data with the annual number of territories varying between 44 and 48 with a c.4% increase in territories during the full survey period.

Data recorded across much of the UK suggests that the number of breeding territories noted at Courtyard Farm has increased during the full survey period 2006-10 at a similar or slightly slower rate than that of other areas during the period 1995-2008. However, data recorded for the period 2008/09 is very much in line with much of the UK. Direct comparison with BTO data from other organic lowland farms in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk is similar to that recorded at

Courtyard Farm, with perhaps just a hint at the slightly higher rate of increase in breeding numbers recorded across much of the UK.

Distribution of territories favours the southern section of the survey area at a consistent ratio of c.2:1. Hedgerow maintenance clearly affects the annual distribution of territories as stretches of hedgerow flailed the previous autumn/winter only very rarely hold breeding Whitethroats the following spring. By the second spring after flailing Whitethroats have usually returned in force with occupancy levels at perhaps c.75-85% of those before flailing, and by the third spring numbers will have been fully restored.

It appears that old pre-Enclosure hedgerows that can be traced back over hundreds of years (of which the farm has a few), rich in traditional species diversity (such as those lining the green lanes on Courtyard Farm), are particularly attractive to Whitethroats.

Whitethroat trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: +7*	*2008-9: +4*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: +20*	*2008-9: +9*
England:	*1995-2008: +18*	*2008-9: +7*
East of England:	*1995-2008: +8*	*2008-9: +8*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: +5*	

STARLING (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

There have been two territories recorded annually at Courtyard Farm during the full survey period 2006-10 indicating the likelihood of no change in breeding numbers. Quite why the breeding numbers on the farm are so low is unclear. The livestock on the farm attract good numbers of wintering Starlings and the large flocks of Jackdaws recorded on the farm in mid-summer and autumn suggest that insects and their larvae are available in good numbers throughout the summer months when Starlings would be feeding young. In addition the farm building complex offers considerably more nesting opportunities than are currently being utilised by this species.

With such a small sample size it difficult to compare trends across the UK, or to draw any firm conclusions other than the fact that the data from other organic farms in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk shows an increase in breeding numbers in 2009 that was not reflected at Courtyard Farm.

To date, in each year this species has been recorded both territories have been located in the farm building complex in the southern section of the farm.

Starling trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: 0*	*2008-9: 0*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: –38*	*2008-9: –22*
England:	*1995-2008: +43*	*2008-9: +3*
East of England:	*1995-2008: –26*	*2008-9: –17*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: –68*	

TREE SPARROW (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

This species has been recorded breeding annually during the survey period, initially bucking the national trend by maintaining a relatively stable population. However a major decline occurred during the spring of 2009 when just four territories were located resulting in a decline of 75% on the previous year. Numbers of territories recorded in 2010 showed no change on 2009.

During the period 2006-08 territories varied between 15 and 17 annually, and were mainly concentrated around the farm building complex where a number of old wooden nestboxes were provided. The nestboxes were in various forms of 'tower blocks', 'linear terraces' and closely

clustered individual boxes. Many were in poor condition. Occasional nests were also located in the woodcrete nestboxes provided around the farm, particularly those on woodland edges, and in farm outbuildings.

The numbers of Tree Sparrows at feeders during the winter 2008/09 appeared both normal and stable but it became apparent very quickly that Tree Sparrows had virtually deserted the usual breeding territories on the farm by the following spring. The spring of 2009 was particularly dry with virtually no rain falling at Courtyard Farm for six weeks. It was decided to investigate the most favoured nestboxes to try to ascertain whether any nest-building or egg-laying had taken place. On opening the first box it was found to be full to the brim with garden snails *Helix aspersa* packed tightly against each other so closely that it was impossible for another snail to get enter the box, let alone a Tree Sparrow. Inspection of each of the cluster of five boxes revealed the same situation in each box. The four Tree Sparrows that nested in 2009 all built nests in cavities in walls in the farm building complex. None used wooden nestboxes.

For a number of reasons a decision was made to replace the wooden nestboxes that were in the worst condition, and not being used, with 20 new woodcrete boxes that were placed on the gable ends of the farm buildings, close to where the remaining Tree Sparrows had moved to. None of the woodcrete nestboxes were used in 2010 when once again just four territories were located. Therefore, whilst recent recoveries have been recorded in certain areas of the UK, the Courtyard Farm Tree Sparrow population is perilously close to local extinction.

Direct comparison with BTO Breeding Bird Survey data from organic lowland farmland in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk is not feasible as sample sizes from these areas are very small and confidence limits on the data are extremely widespread. That said, it is interesting that the data from Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk is identical to that for Courtyard Farm at both ends of the period 2006-09.

Territorial distribution has always been centred on the farm building complex in the southern section of the farm. By 2008 all of the small satellite breeding populations had been lost and the whole Tree Sparrow population was in the farm building complex area, the remnants of which remain to date.

Tree Sparrow trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: –73*	*2008-9: –75*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: +55*	*2008-9: +10*
England:	*1995-2008: +28*	*2008-9: –14*
East of England:	*1995-2008: dna**	*2008-9: dna**
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: –94*	

** Data not available*

GREENFINCH (European Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident and passage migrant. Amber List.

Another annual breeding species with a relatively stable set of data. Numbers of territories identified annually range from 16 to 18 with a c.12% increase noted during the full survey period 2006-10.

The data from Courtyard Farm during the full survey period 2006-10 compares favourably against that for much of the UK in the period 1995-2008, though it is slightly down on the figures to East of England. Results for the period 2008/09 are identical to that for the whole of the UK for the same period, and compare favourably to those relating to East of England.

Comparison with BTO data for organic farms in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk indicates a stable and perhaps strengthening population at Courtyard Farm, against the trend for Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk that may be showing the results of a decline due to the *trichomonosis* parasite. To date there are no obvious signs of *trichomonosis* at Courtyard Farm but the disease is known to flare up in specific areas as a direct result of movement from one feeding station to another and further monitoring is required.

Greenfinch territories are mainly distributed along the green lanes and in the gardens and paddocks around the farm building complex where the mature trees are used as song-posts by the singing males, often song-flighting from tree to tree. Consequently the distribution is almost entirely concentrated in the southern section of the farm, in fact, in each of the survey years 2006-10 only one territory has been recorded north of the Burnham road in each year. The availability of suitable territories suggests that the Courtyard Farm population is near its current upper limit.

Greenfinch trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: +12*	*2008-9:+12*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: –13*	*2008-9:+12*
England:	*1995-2008: +13*	*2008-9: –7*
East of England:	*1995-2008: +35*	*2008-9: –6*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: +23*	

GOLDFINCH (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

Common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor. Amber List.

This species represents one of the success stories of the breeding birds of Courtyard Farm. Goldfinches have increased by a massive 112% over the full survey period with eight territories located in 2006, increasing to 17 in 2010. The increase is one of steady growth as a result of the number of territories located each year showing an increase on the previous year.

The recorded increase in Goldfinch territories at Courtyard Farm virtually doubles that for both the UK during the period 1995-2008, and in the UK Farmland Bird Indicator for the period 1970-2007, suggesting a very sizeable local population increase, particularly when compared to the data for East of England.

In comparison with BTO Breeding Bird Survey data from organic lowland farmland in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, the increase recorded in breeding Goldfinches is largely similar, though the slight decline noted in 2009 is not mirrored at Courtyard Farm where the increasing trend continued upwards into 2010.

The UK increase in Goldfinches is usually linked to the provision of nyjer seed, a small back seed that is now being provided for birds in gardens throughout the UK where its attractiveness to the delicate seed-eating finches such as Siskin and Goldfinch make it one of the most popular seeds provided. Despite the fact that nyjer seed is not provided in the Courtyard Farm feeders, the local Goldfinch population continues to grow, perhaps being linked to improved winter survival.

Goldfinch territories are distributed along the green lanes and in the more mature trees of the older hedgerows an alongside adjacent roads. Thus the distribution of Goldfinch territories only marginally favours the southern section of the farm by a ratio of less than 1.5:1.

Goldfinch trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: +112*	*2008-9: +8*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: +56*	*2008-9: +10*
England:	*1995-2008: +46*	*2008-9: +11*
East of England:	*1995-2008: +16*	*2008-9: +15*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: +64*	

LINNET (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina*

Common resident and passage migrant. Red List.

This species has bred annually throughout the full survey period, but in slowly but steadily declining numbers. A total of seven territories were located in both 2006 and 2007, with a decline to five territories in both 2008 and 2009, and a further decline to just three territories in 2010. This set of data represents a c.57% decrease in the number of territories during the period 2006-10.

Unfortunately, comparison of the Courtyard Farm data for the full survey period 2006-10 against

that for other regions during the period 1995-2008 shows a similar, unabated decline in numbers of territories. Direct comparison indicates that although the increase in numbers recorded on organic farmland in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk in 2008 was not reflected at Courtyard Farm, the subsequent decline in 2009 has returned the Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk trend to a similar trajectory to that at Courtyard Farm where, at just three territories, the breeding population is in a critical state.

The distribution of Linnet territories at Courtyard Farm is also strange. The majority of territories are located in hedgerows in the northern section of the farm, where there is also a small patch of sparse gorse scrub that occasionally has one or two territories. It is interesting that this patch of seemingly suitable gorse scrub is not occupied in each year, and that the more sheltered, generally more dense hedgerows in the sheltered southern section are not used more often.

Linnet trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: –57*	*2008-9: 0*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: –23*	*2008-9: +9*
England:	*1995-2008: –34*	*2008-9: –4*
East of England:	*1995-2008: –35*	*2008-9: +1*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: –58*	

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Common resident. Red List.

The data recorded for Yellowhammer definitely represents one of the more pleasing sets from Courtyard Farm with an increase of c.23% recorded over the full survey period 2006-10. Numbers of territories have declined slightly from a peak of 42 in 2008, to 38 in 2010, representing a small decline of c.7% but are clearly favourable when considered against the data presented below for the period 1995-2008.

In direct comparison against data from the BTO relating to other organic lowland farmland, the trend is a very gentle decline at Courtyard Farm, at a rate much slower than that recorded in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, though a slight recovery is also indicated in that data for 2009.

Over-winter stubbles and undersown stubbles are a feature of organic farming methods and this combined with the provision of a winter food source in the form of seed drum feeders, primarily for Grey Partridges and Tree Sparrows, has doubtless assisted winter survival rates for this species on the farm. This may well be having a direct effect on the increase in breeding territories recorded.

Yellowhammer is one of the few Courtyard Farm breeding species with a territorial distribution that favours the northern section of the farm, at a ratio of c.1.25:1. This may be directly linked to the fact that this species tends to sing later in the spring and early summer at Courtyard Farm, when the hedgerows of the northern section of the farm are in full leaf and offer more cover and shelter than in early spring.

Yellowhammer trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: +23*	*2008-9: –7*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: –16*	*2008-9: +3*
England:	*1995-2008: –22*	*2008-9: +1*
East of England:	*1995-2008: –22*	*2008-9: +9*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: –54*	

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*

Scarce and declining resident. Red List.

Corn Buntings still have a tenuous holding as a breeding species in north Norfolk and they have held territory at Courtyard Farm in each of the years of the full survey. The number of territories recorded

has varied between four and six annually during the years 2006-10, and remain stable over the period. However, the annual number of breeding pairs is likely to be lower than the actual number of territories recorded as it is not uncommon for Corn Buntings to sing repeatedly from the hedgerows (or other song-posts) adjacent to stubble fields where they have been feeding during spring.

Whilst numbers of territories recorded for this species are relatively stable at Courtyard Farm the small core sample means that the results must be treated with caution when compared against the trends presented below for the period 1995-2008. It is clear however, that the Corn Bunting is hanging on as a breeding species in north Norfolk.

Direct comparison against BTO Breeding Bird Survey data from organic lowland farmland in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk indicates a similar trend to that at Courtyard Farm, one of small fluctuations in a relatively small core sample. Thus, comparison should me made with caution, particularly as there are signs of a slight decline developing during the period 2008/09 in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

The distribution of Corn Bunting territories at Courtyard Farm tends to follow the distribution of stubble fields standing into the spring, reinforcing the theory that not all territorial males in spring result in a breeding pair as songsters can disappear from the area once the stubble is ploughed in during spring. There is little doubt however, that Corn Buntings remain at Courtyard Farm as a breeding species as both food-carrying and autumn family groups have been recorded.

Corn Bunting trends

Courtyard Farm:	*2006-2010: 0*	*2008-9: 0*
UK (including Channel Islands & Northern Ireland):	*1995-2008: –29*	*2008-9: –5*
England:	*1995-2008: –25*	*2008-9: –4*
East of England:	*1995-2008: –25*	*2008-9: +20*
UK Farmland Bird Indicator:	*1970-2007: –90*	

Summary

Whilst it appears that a number of species included in the UK Farmland Bird Indicator have fared well at Courtyard Farm during the period 2006-10 when compared against national and regional trends over various parts, and the whole of, the UK, there is also a smaller number of species that have fared quite badly against the trends elsewhere.

Grey Partridge, Skylark and Yellowhammer, three of the most frequently named species as indicators of the health of our lowland farmland all appear to be faring better at Courtyard Farm than elsewhere in general. As indicated in the text for both Grey Partridge and Yellowhammer, the provision of winter feed seed in drum feeders may be an influencing factor in the quantity of food available for these species, especially in late-winter and early-spring when food is apparently scarce. Winter seed strips near hedgerows, specifically sown for ground-feeding birds, also provide foraging opportunities for these species. Most of the seed is quickly eaten in autumn but the remnants provide further food in late winter and early spring, particularly in hard weather. There is also some evidence from current winter bird survey work at Courtyard Farm that both undersown stubble standing over the winter period, and to a lesser degree first and second year rotational red and white clover/rye grass leys, uncultivated over the winter period, are beneficial to winter survival of these species. It is clear that in the case of Grey Partridge that winter survival goes some considerable way to governing the levels of local breeding stock the following spring. Whether the Skylarks and Yellowhammers that over-winter at Courtyard Farm are migrants or also constitute local breeding stock is open to conjecture. One other species included in the UK Farmland Bird Indicator is also faring well at Courtyard Farm, namely Goldfinch. Interestingly, as indicated in the text for this species, what is thought to be one of the most obvious factors aiding the current increase in breeding Goldfinches in the UK is unlikely to have any bearing on the local population at Courtyard Farm.

Two other species included in the UK Farmland Bird Indicator that appear to be holding their own at Courtyard Farm, namely Starling and Corn Bunting, breed in such small numbers that very

little significance can be put on the results recorded.

Species recorded as regular breeding species at Courtyard Farm that are included on the UK Farmland Bird Indicator that appear to be faring in much the same manner as elsewhere in the UK are Turtle Dove, Whitethroat, Tree Sparrow and Linnet. In the case of Turtle Dove the overall decline has been at a slower rate than nationally and in the case of Tree Sparrow, following a period of relative stability a very sizeable recent decline has bought the overall decline into line with that over much of the UK, worryingly at a time when populations elsewhere are showing signs of recovery. A possible cause of the Tree Sparrow decline at Courtyard Farm is mooted in the text for that species.

Three remaining species that are recorded as regular breeding species at Courtyard Farm and are included on the UK Farmland Bird Indicator are Stock Dove, Woodpigeon and Jackdaw. Both Stock Dove and Jackdaw are in decline at Courtyard Farm, against a general trend of sizeable increases, at least in England. Whilst a possible governing factor on the breeding population level on the farm is mooted in the text for both species, it appears unlikely that food availability is a problem as both species can appear in sizeable numbers at Courtyard Farm in late-summer and autumn. Woodpigeons are currently on the increase at Courtyard Farm but at a much lower rate of increase than has been recorded recently both locally and nationally. Reasons for this appear unclear.

Other species that are not included on the UK Farmland Bird Indicator but are breeding at Courtyard Farm have had fluctuating fortunes. Some such as Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Long-tailed Tit and Greenfinch have increased, some dramatically, others such as Green Woodpecker, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Song Thrush, Coal Tit, Marsh Tit, Goldcrest, Chaffinch and Bullfinch remain relatively stable, whilst other such as Dunnock, Wren and Robin have shown small declines, with habitat management thought to be one of the likely causes of temporarily fluctuating numbers. However, woodland species such as Tawny Owl, Great Spotted Woodpecker and long-distance migrants such as Willow Warbler and Swallow are showing signs of declines larger than those over the entire UK, albeit with relatively small sample sizes. Data for some other species is difficult to evaluate as fluctuations in data for some species with very small sample sizes indicates large declines or increases over short time periods.

Conclusion

Whilst there are some suggestions that a number of the key farmland bird species recorded breeding on the organically farmed land at Courtyard Farm are faring better, or at least as well as elsewhere in the UK, the core samples of some species are small.

It is clear that winter food, and ultimately survival, is very high on the list of issues that can govern the breeding populations of UK lowland farmland birds and that the sympathetic agricultural practices associated with organic farming may go some way to addressing this problem. Also, many of the farming practices associated with both Entry- and Higher-Level Stewardship schemes operated by Natural England have benefits to farmland birds and other orders.

Data is apparently not freely available to enable direct comparisons with Courtyard Farm across the full survey period of 2006-10, against traditional (non-organic) lowland farms. Therefore it is difficult to evaluate some of the results obtained and it is clear that ongoing research and survey work is needed over a longer period of time to enable trends to develop more clearly. Unfortunately the perilous state of many of our UK lowland farmland breeding species means that time is not something that is readily available.

Several of the species recorded breeding at Courtyard Farm that are not solely, or in a large part dependent on farmland for their survival, and thus not included in the UK Farmland Bird Indicator, are also faring better at Courtyard Farm than elsewhere in the UK, though ultimately restricted sample sizes for some species and the relatively short period of study to date also make this difficult to evaluate in some cases. It is also true that there are other species that have, for reasons that are as yet unclear, not fared as well as may be expected.

It is also likely that woodland management regimes, hedgerow maintenance and scrub clearance have a temporary effect on the breeding population and distribution of some woodland and woodland

edge species, perhaps more so in the relatively limited areas of mature woodland and associated understorey at Courtyard Farm when compared with larger areas of relatively undisturbed woodland elsewhere.

Acknowledgements

Both Ashley Murray and James McCallum contributed to the initial development of the survey work at Courtyard Farm. Dr. Gavin Siriwardena, Head of Land-use Research at the BTO, kindly supplied comparison data from Breeding Bird Surveys on organic lowland farms in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Doubtless many un-named individuals contributed to both the provision and presentation of data relating to UK population trends available on the BTO and RSPB websites. My thanks are due to all of the aforementioned.

Special thanks are also due to Lord Peter Melchett, who allowed unrestricted access to his land and provided unstinting enthusiasm and support, and to my personal friends whose contributions to the production of this finished report, and others in the past, are invaluable.

Icelandic Redwing at Walcott in 2009 - Second for Norfolk

Mick Fiszer

On 4th January 2009 I had been birding in the Walcott area for most of the morning. Just before midday I decided I had done as well as I could so started to make my way home to North Walsham, the route by chance taking me past Barrington Farms, a residential home for handicapped people. It consists of the home itself, some farm outbuildings and several small paddocks.

On passing I noticed a sizeable flock of Redwings and a few Fieldfares and, with a rare thrush in mind, I stopped to look through the flock, which immediately flew up into some nearby trees.

As I waited, they gradually returned to the paddock and while searching through them I came across one facing away from me which looked very slightly larger but much darker than the other Redwings. At first I was not even sure if it was a Redwing or not but finally it turned to face me and I could see clearly that it was indeed a Redwing. However, it was so heavily streaked underneath and the supercilium was such a deep orange/buff colour that I immediately thought of Icelandic Redwing.

I then called Andy Kane who came over and tried unsuccessfully to photograph it while I compiled a description:

Size very slightly larger and stockier than nearby Redwings, with a strikingly obvious orange/buff supercillium. The underparts were a rather deeper shade of buff than the other Redwings present and the streaking was also much heavier, particularly on the flanks and undertail. The reddish flanks were also much deeper in colour, contributing to the bird's darker appearance.

The bird was eventually photographed by Bob Cobbold on January 8th.

This constitutes the first live record of a Redwing of the Icelandic form *coburni* to occur in the county, the first being found dead (bearing an Icelandic ring) earlier in the same winter, at Kelling on 12th November 2008. The occurrence of two Icelandic Redwings and both Greenland and Iceland Redpolls in Norfolk in the winter of 2008/09 clearly points to an unusual influx of northwestern passerines.

The Breeding Bird Community of a Broadland Fen

Christopher F. Mason

Summary

The breeding bird community of a Broadland fen was studied over four years. Thirty-six species were recorded breeding, while a further fourteen species used the site for feeding during the breeding season. Wren, Reed Warbler and Willow Warbler were the most abundant species. Habitat preferences are described and population densities discussed.

Introduction

The Broads covers an area of some 30,000ha, making them the largest wetland area in the UK. Some 6849ha (23% of the total) are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Broads suffered a rapid decline in water quality and ecological diversity due to eutrophication in the middle of the twentieth century (Mason and Bryant 1975), which several decades of expensive restoration have only partially reversed (Moss 2001, Mason 2002).

A survey in 1984 classified 5486ha as fen, of which 2241ha was open and 3014ha was invaded by bushes and trees (George 1992). A later fen audit in 1999 (Stephenson and Thorley 2004) identified a total area of fen (managed or capable of restoration) of 1649ha, suggesting that a substantial area had developed into woodland in the interim.

Despite its significance for wildlife conservation there is little quantitative information on the breeding bird communities of Broadland fens. The three monographs on the Broads (Ellis 1965, George 1992 and Moss 2001) provide only generalised information. Qualitative accounts of the bird communities of fen are provided in Fuller (1982) and of alder carr by Simms (1971). Cadbury (2005) described the population of Bearded Tits at Hickling Broad over a twenty-four-year period and provided some information on other species.

I report here on a four-year survey of the breeding birds of a Broadland fen. Some details of habitat preferences are given, together with an estimate of densities in the habitats utilised.

Study Area and Methods

The study area, Mill Marsh (National Grid reference TG 358231) lies adjacent to the River Ant and is approximately 1km upstream of Barton Broad. It has been in my family's ownership since 1981 and is managed as a private nature reserve. Mill Marsh is 9.6ha in area and is approximately rectangular in shape, being some 550m east to west and 220m north to south. It is likely that, during the 19th Century, the Ant valley was primarily grazing marsh, maintained by drainage mills pumping away excess water, but a change in agricultural economics resulted in the mills falling into disrepair with the land reverting to fen (George 1992). One such ruined mill lies on the southern edge of Mill Marsh.

Mill Marsh has 1350m of water-filled drainage ditches and a small broad of 0.44ha, dug illegally by the previous owner in the late 1970s and stocked with fish. There are four other habitat types:

1. Mature fen carr (2ha), dominated by alders, with a more diverse intermix of pedunculate oak, silver and downy birch, hawthorn, holly, ash and several willow species in the drier areas to the western edge.
2. Immature fen carr (2.06ha) (hereafter called scrub carr), a dense mixture primarily of alder and grey willow, with some birch.
3. Open fen (1.48ha), cut on a two-year rotation and dominated by common reed.
4. Bushy fen (3.62ha, including an island in the broad), reed invaded by grey willow, alder and birch, which is currently slowly being restored by scrub removal, to be managed on a three-year rotation.

The area is included in Ant Broads and Marshes SSSI, the Ant Broads and Marshes National Nature Reserve, the Broads Special Area of Conservation and the Broadland Ramsar Site.

Mill Marsh was surveyed for breeding birds over the four years 2007-2010 using the territory mapping method (Bibby *et al.* 1992). Between the beginning of April and mid-June the site was slowly walked and all birds seen and heard were recorded on a large-scale map. Between nine and twelve visits were made in each year. Nests and/or broods of waterfowl were recorded and species utilising the site for feeding but not holding territory were noted. At the end of each survey, records of each species were transferred to individual maps and, at the end of each breeding season, ellipses were drawn around clusters of points to determine the number of territories of each species.

The ellipses delineating territories were laid over a habitat map and the amount of each of the four habitats (excluding water) within each territory was determined graphically. These data were used, for species with eight territories or more, to determine habitat preferences using the method of Jacobs (1974): $D = (r - p) / (r + p - 2rp)$ where D is the preference index, r is the proportion of territories in a habitat and p is the proportion of habitat in the study area as a whole. The index ranges from +1 (exclusive use) to -1 (complete avoidance), a score of zero indicating that habitat is used in proportion to its availability. Population densities were then calculated for those habitat mixtures utilised by species.

For the closely related species pairs Sedge/Reed Warbler and Chiffchaff/Willow Warbler habitat overlap was measured using Renkonen's Percentage Overlap method (Krebs 1999): $P_{jk} = [\sum (\text{minimum } p_{ij} p_{ik})] 100$ where P_{jk} = percentage overlap between species j and species k, p_{ij} = proportion resource i is of the total resources used by species j, p_{ik} = proportion resource i is of the the total resources used by species k. These are summed over the four resource states.

Results

Table 1 lists the number of territories recorded on Mill Marsh over the four year study period. A total of thirty-six species was recorded holding territory but not all species were recorded in all years. Evening visits were only made in 2007 to record Tawny Owls.

A pair of Mute Swans nested on the island in the broad in all years and produced a total of 16 cygnets. Greylag Geese also nested in all years but their productivity is unknown as offspring were moved off the site soon after hatching. Canada Geese nested in two years but were unsuccessful due to aggression by Greylag Geese. Mallards produced broods in all years but it is not known how many. The most abundant species on the marsh were Reed Warbler, Wren and Willow Warbler.

Several species nested in earlier years but were not recorded during 2007-2010: Lapwing, Snipe, Turtle Dove, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Willow Tit. The waders have disappeared with a loss of more open habitat. The loss of the other species mirrors a general decline in the wider countryside. Lesser Redpolls are now only occasional nesters whereas formerly they were both annual and more numerous.

Table 1 also lists fourteen species which did not nest on Mill Marsh but which used the site, or the air above, for feeding. Three further species held temporary territories but did not persist: Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush and Garden Warbler.

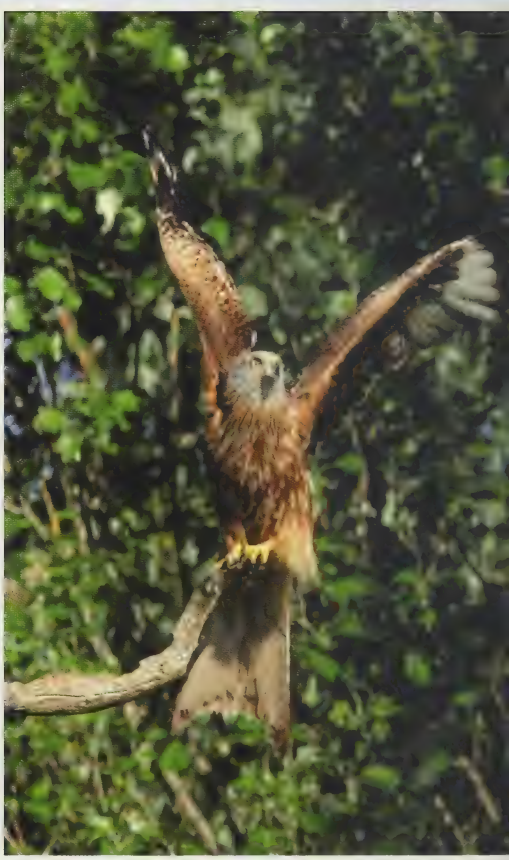
Habitat preferences for those species with a total of eight or more territories are shown in Table 2. Species generally used either carr (mature and scrub) or fen. However some species were more restricted within these categories. Sedge Warblers were restricted to bushy fen and Willow Warblers to the scrub carr. Blackcaps and Treecreepers showed preferences only for mature carr. Table 3 shows the range of population densities (territories km^{-2}) over the four years for these species in the habitats which they preferred. The highest population densities were for Willow Warbler, restricted to the scrub carr habitat.

Habitat overlap was calculated for the species pairs Chiffchaff/Willow Warbler and Sedge/Reed Warbler. Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler showed 39% overlap, with some Chiffchaffs utilising scrub carr. The overlap between Sedge and Reed Warblers was greater at 62%, both species making much use of bushy fen.

Top left; Taiga Bean Goose at Holkham. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Top right; Tundra Bean Goose at Sidestrand. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle left; Lesser White-fronted Goose at Buckenham Marshes. *(Justin Lansdell)*
Middle right; Pale-bellied Brent Geese. *(Neil Bowman)*
Bottom left; Long-tailed Duck at Sea Palling. *(Neil Bowman)*
Bottom right; Velvet Scoter at Filby Broad – a rare inland occurrence. *(Bob Cobbold)*

Top left; Smew at Blickling Lake. *(Bob Cobbold)*
Top right; Blue-winged Teal at Cley. *(Steve Gantlett)*
Middle left; Red-necked Grebe at Gypsy Lane, Titchwell. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle right; Great Northern Diver at Whitlingham Country Park. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Bottom; Black-throated Diver at Swanton Morley Gravel Pits. *(Julian Bhalerao)*

Top; Spoonbills at Cley. *(Steve Gantlett)*
Middle; Breeding Spoonbills at Holkham.
The first breeding record in the county for about 300 years. *(Both; Andrew Bloomfield)*
Bottom; Glossy Ibis at Welney. *(Julian Bhalerao)*



Top; Osprey at Swanton Morley Gravel Pits. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle left; Rough-legged Buzzard at Warham. *(Penny Clarke)*
Bottom right; Common Buzzard. *(Brian Beckett)*
Right; Red Kite at Burnham Thorpe. *(Andrew Bloomfield)*

Discussion

Of the thirty-six species recorded holding territories on Mill Marsh, twenty-five were primarily associated with woodland and eleven with wetland. Moorhen may appear an anomalous woodland species, it clearly favouring carr over open fen, but the carr was intersected with dykes. Fuller (1982) lists twenty-five species as the most widespread breeding birds of rich fens (swamp and carr), occurring on more than half of thirty-nine sites surveyed in England and Wales. Of these, five (Whitethroat, Magpie, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Linnet) were never recorded in the breeding season on Mill Marsh, while Song Thrush only once held a temporary territory. Fuller's list did not include Mute Swan or geese, or five species (Great Spotted Woodpecker, Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff, Marsh Tit and Treecreeper) which appear to be ubiquitous in Broadland fens (pers. obs.). Although Simms (1971) provided no quantitative data on the birds of Broadland alder carr, he noted that Cuckoos and Turtle Doves were common and widespread. This is no longer the case.

In examining and comparing territory densities it should be remembered that only a single, relatively small site, was surveyed. Four years of data are, however, included.

Cramp (1992) reports densities, in Europe, of Sedge Warblers of 140-343 pairs km^{-2} in reedbeds, 225 pairs km^{-2} in shrubby fen, with densities in localised areas of over 800 pairs km^{-2}. The density at Mill Marsh was somewhat lower than these estimates. For the narrow reedbed surrounding the Trinity Broads, George (1992) gives a linear density of Sedge Warblers of 10 pairs km^{-1}, which can be compared with a linear density of 6.6km^{-1} for coastal borrowdykes in Essex (Mason and Macdonald 2005). Reed Warbler densities are generally higher than those of Sedge Warbler (Cramp 1992). Typical densities are 100-400 pairs km^{-2}, with localised densities of up to 1000km^{-2}. Milson (1982) showed that Reed Warbler territories are associated with the edge rather than the area of the reedbed, with densities of up to 9km^{-1} in Humberside sites, similar to the 10 pairs km^{-1} around the Trinity Broads (George 1992), 6-8 pairs km^{-1} at Hickling Broad (Cadbury 2005) and 11km^{-1} along coastal borrowdykes in Essex (Mason and Macdonald 2005). The density of Reed Warblers at Mill Marsh was thus within the average range for the species. The three other wetland passerines at Mill Marsh (Cetti's Warbler, Bearded Tit and Reed Bunting) occurred at lower densities than the two warblers.

Of the woodland warblers, Blackcap densities at Mill Marsh were in the range 100–150 territories km^{-2}, similar to the 100km^{-2} recorded in riverine forest in Germany. Mixed woodland generally has lower densities than this (Mason 1995). Clement (1995) summarises densities for Chiffchaff of 128 pairs km^{-2} in riverine woodland in Germany and 54 pairs km^{-2} in Polish alder forest, similar to the density in alder carr in Mill Marsh. Willow Warbler densities in riverine forest and bushy wetland average around 100 pairs km^{-2}, with locally up to 500 pairs km^{-2} (Cramp 1992), Mill Marsh therefore falling at the higher end of these estimates. Bellamy *et al.* (2009) found that Willow Warblers were largely associated with early successional and open canopy woodland, while there is a strong association with birch (Yapp 1962, Mason 1997). The limited habitat overlap between Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff at Mill Marsh is a reflection of the restriction of Willow Warbler to scrub carr, with the Chiffchaff utilising mainly mature carr, but with some territories extending into scrub.

Densities of Blue and Great Tits in carr at Mill Marsh, while higher than those in alder forest in Poland, are generally lower than for mixed woodland in England (Cramp and Perrins 1993, Gosler 1993). Treecreeper densities in woodland at Mill Marsh are generally higher than reported in the literature (Cramp and Perrins 1993). Wren and Chaffinch densities were within the normal range for deciduous woodland (Cramp 1988, Cramp and Perrins 1994).

Alder carr is distinctive in that it has large amounts of dead and dying wood, rich in invertebrates, as many trees collapse into the unstable substrate. Furthermore, this swampy floor, with its many fetid pools, carries dense populations of insect larvae, especially *Diptera*, whose emerging adults provide a rich source of food for birds for much of the spring and summer.

The Broadland fens present highly dynamic habitats. The open fen is constantly being encroached by developing carr. While carr (riverine forest) is recognised as a scarce habitat within

Europe, most effort in Broadland is put into maintaining open fen, which supports important populations of three bird specialities (Bittern, Marsh Harrier and Bearded Tit), as well as diverse invertebrate and plant communities. Quantitative surveys of bird communities in a greater range of fens would help to better inform management policies.

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Table 1. Number of Territories of Birds on Mill Marsh, 2007-2010.

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Mute Swan	1 N	1N	1N	1 N
Greylag Goose	3 N	2N	1N	1 N
Canada Goose	1 N	1N	0	0
Mallard	3 B	2B	B	B
Pheasant	1	1	1	1
Water Rail	1	0	0	0
Moorhen	7	8	6	4
Coot	1	0	0	0
Stock Dove	1	1	1	1
Woodpigeon	2	2	2	2
Cuckoo	1	0	0	0
Tawny Owl	2	?	?	?
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	2	2	1
Wren	12	10	9	7
Dunnock	0	1	1	0
Robin	6	6	5	6
Blackbird	2	1	1	1
Cetti's Warbler	2	1	1	1
Sedge Warbler	4	3	1	3
Reed Warbler	12	10	8	10
Blackcap	2	3	3	2
Chiffchaff	4	3	2	3
Willow Warbler	9	8	6	6
Goldcrest	1	0	0	0
Bearded Tit	1	2	1	1
Long-tailed Tit	1	2	1	3
Blue Tit	4	5	7	5
Great Tit	2	2	2	3
Marsh Tit	2	1	1	2
Treecreeper	1	2	2	3
Carrion Crow	0	0	1	1
Jay	1	0	1	1
Chaffinch	3	3	3	4
Lesser Redpoll	1	0	0	0
Bullfinch	1	0	0	1
Reed Bunting	2	1	1	2

Species using site for feeding (May-June) but not nesting:
Gadwall, Teal, Shoveler, Pochard, Bittern, Grey Heron, Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Hobby, Barn Owl, Swift, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Swallow

N.B.: N = nests, B = broods

Table 2. Habitat Preferences of Breeding Species on Mill Marsh.

Species	Mature Carr	Scrub Carr	Open Fen	Bushy Fen
Moorhen	+0.37	+0.12	-0.10	-0.48
Woodpigeon	+0.72	+0.30	-1	-1
Wren	+0.46	+0.15	-0.94	-0.25
Robin	+0.53	+0.48	-0.90	-0.88
Sedge Warbler	-1	-1	-1	+1
Reed Warbler	-1	-0.44	+0.29	+0.48
Blackcap	+0.97	-0.73	-1	-1
Chiffchaff	+0.75	+0.20	-1	-0.95
Willow Warbler	-0.64	+0.79	-0.68	-0.47
Blue Tit	+0.49	+0.24	-0.05	-0.84
Great Tit	+0.70	+0.32	-1	-1
Treecreeper	+0.87	-0.09	-1	-1
Chaffinch	+0.69	+0.35	-1	-1

Table 3. Population Densities over Four Years in the Preferred Habitats at Mill Marsh.

Species	Preferred Habitats	Population Density Range (territories km^{-2})
Moorhen	Mature Carr + Scrub Carr	98 - 197
Woodpigeon	Mature Carr + Scrub Carr	49
Wren	Mature Carr + Scrub Carr	172 - 296
Robin	Mature Carr + Scrub Carr	123 - 148
Sedge Warbler	Bushy Fen	28 - 110
Reed Warbler	Open Fen + Bushy Fen	157 - 235
Blackcap	Mature Carr	100 - 150
Chiffchaff	Mature Carr + Scrub Carr	49 - 99
Willow Warbler	Scrub Carr	291 - 437
Blue Tit	Mature Carr + Scrub Carr	99 - 172
Great Tit	Mature Carr + Scrub Carr	49 - 74
Treecreeper	Mature Carr	50 - 150
Chaffinch	Mature Carr + Scrub Carr	74 - 99

Diet of Wintering Owls on Blakeney Point

Richard Porter, Edward Stubbings and Chris Wheeler

The Short-eared Owl is the only owl to occur regularly on Blakeney Point in winter, although in some years it is often rare or absent. In February and March 2008 a communal roost of three birds was established and a cache or plucking site of wader remains was found nearby. The Barn Owl is rarely seen in winter on the Point but in 2009/10 a single bird roosted there for at least six weeks, giving an opportunity to collect pellets and examine its diet.

Short-eared Owl

The dune roost of three birds in February and March 2008 was unusual in that a cache or plucking site of food remains and pellets was discovered nearby. These were examined between 14th February and 26th March. The site was inspected during the day, when the owls were roosting, and the remains of at least 25 waders were found, of which Redshank (at least 12), Dunlin (at least 10) and one Knot were identified. The study of seven pellets showed they were made up entirely of small contour feathers and fragments of bones, some of which could be identified as coming from the trunk, but no bills, leg or wing bones were found apart from a bone that could have been the top of a tibia.

The diet of Short-eared Owls comprises mostly small mammals, especially field voles (Glue 1977) but it has been shown that they will change to avian prey, especially waders, in some coastal areas in winter and in some cases these can comprise the greatest proportion of their diet (Glue 1977, Page & Whitacre 1975). Dunlin was the commonest wader recorded, both in studies in Britain and America, and in our study the high proportion of Redshank and the absence of voles is worthy of note.

Food-caching by Short-eared Owls is not recorded in Mikkola (1983) or Cramp (1985) but Pennington (1989) witnessed the species cache a single field vole in November. It is therefore more likely that this was not a cache but a site which was communally used by the owls for plucking waders.

Barn Owl

The single bird which was discovered on 19th November 2009 roosted in a shed near the Lifeboat House and was present until early January 2010. It was seen regularly at the roost (sometimes on consecutive days) and was therefore presumed to be hunting exclusively on the Point; indeed there would appear to be no reason for it to commute back and forth over the harbour. Twenty-one pellets were collected and the results of the analyses are shown in Table 1. From this it is clear that the majority prey item was field vole, forming nearly 70% of the diet. Shrews of both species are known to be present on Blakeney Point and formed nearly 20% of the diet.

Table 1. Contents of Barn Owl Pellets collected from roost on Blakeney Point, November 2009 to January 2010

Date and number of pellets collected	19 Nov 09 4	18-19 Dec 09 7	1 Jan 10 10	Total prey items
Common Shrew	5	4		9
Pygmy Shrew		3		3
Field Vole	5	15	22	42
Bank Vole		3?		3?
Mouse sp	3			3
Wren		1?		1?
Totals	13	26	22	61

Our findings fit the list of prey items for Barn Owl in Cramp (1985) which are given as 55% small voles, 15% mice and 16% shrews, the remainder being various larger mammals such as brown rat.

Acknowledgements

For analysing the Barn Owl Pellets we would like to thank Dorothy and John Casey, Chris Wheeler and the children of Class 3, Blakeney C. of E. Primary School.

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Iberian Chiffchaff at Stiffkey - Second for Norfolk

Ashley McElwee

The whole of the first day of my Easter holidays had been spent moving house so I woke up early on April 3rd 2010 aching but very keen to get out birding at Stiffkey, my local patch. I arrived at Stiffkey Fen not long after dawn with a moderate southerly breeze blowing and a chill in the air. I walked alongside the River Stiffkey checking the willows and sallows for migrant warblers which often use this line to head off inland. Early morning is a great time to see these birds pausing briefly before resuming their journeys and, sure enough, two Chiffchaffs were present. Almost immediately I heard an unfamiliar song right on the edge of my hearing a hundred yards ahead by the coastal footpath. I decided to go and investigate but the song wasn't heard again until I was within twenty yards of where the bird was last heard - '*jep jep jep whit de de de*'. I was taken aback by what I had just heard! It didn't sound like a 'funny' Chiffchaff song or a Willow Warbler incorporating a few 'chiffs' or 'chaffs' into its repertoire. Almost immediately I got good views of the bird feeding close by me. It was obviously a well marked *Phylloscopus* but very different from our Chiffchaffs, in fact it looked more like a Willow Warbler. The pale orangey legs and striking orange feet together with the pale lower mandible stood out, as did the contrast between a subtle yellow wash to the throat and quite a bright white belly. Another look and I saw long pointed wings (again reminiscent of a Willow Warbler), olive/green upperparts with a yellowish wash to the undertail coverts and a yellowy supercilium. It then gave a call I'd never heard before -'*seeu*', maybe like a loud Siberian Chiffchaff but more downslurred and unlike the now increasingly heard disyllabic '*swee-oo*' call of Chiffchaff. As I spent time watching the bird my heart started to beat faster. I knew these features fitted Iberian Chiffchaff but I also knew that this was a tricky species to identify and I couldn't remember exactly how the song should sound. I needed a second opinion so I 'phoned a friend', James McCallum.

He joined me soon after and we heard the three-part song again. He thought the song sounded 'spot-on' for Iberian Chiffchaff but was very keen to see how the bird looked. James noted the features as I had done, also stating that it looked subtly longer in the body and tail. We watched it for a further thirty minutes or so. By now the bird had started to call more frequently - very distinctive, somewhere between a Siskin and a Reed Bunting but the weather had turned cloudy and cooler and the bird had started to sing a more subdued subsong, missing out the middle phrase and extending the final trill - '*de de de jep jep de de de*'. We discussed the bird at length and, although confident of the identification, we knew the importance of sonograms to confirm the identification. We therefore phoned the news out as a 'probable'.

A couple of birders came and went but the bird had gone missing and we thought it might have carried on inland so we went to have a look at Stiffkey Fen. After a short while we returned and heard the song again from around a bend - '*jep, jep jep weep weep weep de de de*'. It sounded great but I said the song was probably just coming from another birder's ipod! We went around the bend to see no other birders or ipods but the Iberian Chiffchaff singing and showing well. We watched it for another five hours or so, enjoying excellent views as well as hearing its song which would vary from classic singing to a quieter more plastic song, particularly when it clouded over (I believe most other vagrant Iberian Chiffchaffs to Britain have done this). We began to pick the bird out just on views of its face whilst feeding alongside several other Chiffchaffs and a single Willow Warbler. The eyestripe and ear covert patch were less well marked than on Chiffchaff, which made the pale lower eye-ring contrast less and, together with the pale bill, it gave the bird a more 'open-faced' expression (perhaps a little like a Bonelli's Warbler). We left the bird to a small number of birders and remarked what a memorable day we had had watching such a rare and subtle bird down to just a few feet and for such a long time.

A fuller description follows: The whole of the upperparts except the darker primaries and tertials were a mossy green colour, much brighter than Chiffchaff. This feature was more obvious in better light and was perhaps closer in colour to a Willow Warbler. The primary projection was longer than that of Chiffchaff, again much closer to a Willow Warbler. The wingtip often looked pointed, particularly when held away from the tail. There was a lovely lemon-yellow wash around the throat and carpal joint (again more obvious in good light) carrying on just faintly along the rear flanks before becoming brighter again on the undertail coverts. The rest of the underparts where a cleanish white. The bill was longer than that of Chiffchaff and more pointed whilst the whole of the lower mandible was orange. The long supercilium was yellow both before and behind the eye but the darker eye-stripe was notably weaker before the eye than behind. The pale lower eye-ring contrasted only weakly against the ear coverts. The ear coverts were paler than on Chiffchaff, giving the bird quite an 'open-faced' expression when viewed from side-on. The legs were orangey-brown with striking orange feet.

The '*seeu*' call, showing as a convex downward curve on a sonogram, was diagnostic of Iberian Chiffchaff. It was often given in bursts of four or five calls. The song was more variable. At times it gave classic renditions of Iberian Chiffchaff song, up to three seconds in duration, comprising three or four segments including the diagnostic rising '*weep*' and with the frequency falling between 3kHz and 6kHz. At other times it gave a more subdued version, often whilst feeding, but never sounded like a Chiffchaff.

This is the second record of Iberian Chiffchaff for Norfolk, following the first at Colney, Norwich from April 21st to June 7th 2007.

A Breeding Record of Marsh Warbler in East Norfolk

Peter Allard

The discovery of a singing male Marsh Warbler in east Norfolk on May 28th 2010 was noteworthy for local birder Ian Smith. The bird remained in the area over the next three days, but sang very little and then mostly in the evening. Intriguingly, a second individual was identified here on June 1st and both were seen chasing each other around in what appeared to be a suitable breeding area.

Continuous observations confirmed our suspicions, and on June 4th nest-building was observed. The site chosen was in an area of dried reeds with a heavy undergrowth of nettles, and quite secluded. Adjacent to this was situated a large broad bean field and both Marsh Warblers were regularly seen crossing a track to feed in its borders. The nest site was on private land with the nearest public footpath some distance away. With respect for this, and as Marsh Warbler is a Schedule One breeding species, the presence of these birds was made known only to a few local observers.

The male sang very little, unlike most visiting male Marsh Warblers in the county. These usually fail to find a mate and can sing for weeks at a time. As June progressed, little activity was noted. However, on one occasion in mid-month, both birds became very agitated over the presence of a stoat close by, calling repeatedly until it disappeared. However tempting is was to look for the nest, this was strongly resisted due to the species' rarity and the fact that it is a Schedule One species. In any case, to do so would have involved a special request for a licence from Natural England.

July began with the adults carrying food on 3rd. Weather conditions were very favourable with continuous sunshine and very little rain. Visits were made almost daily and on July 11th adults were seen carrying food to an area away from the nest site. Interestingly, the adults were obtaining much of their food from the tops of several giant hogweed plants while excursions were still being made into the broad bean field. On 13th at least two juveniles were observed, the adults furiously feeding them both, on one occasion bringing a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly. This was the first occasion that Marsh Warblers have been seen feeding young in the county.

The following day a third juvenile was seen, with a fourth strongly suspected, but all kept very low in the reeds and undergrowth and were extremely difficult to see. All the juveniles were now being fed in an area some eighty yards away from the nest site. By 20th there was no longer any sign of the adults but the juveniles were by now more obvious and feeding in more open areas giving excellent views for short periods.

A decision was made on 21st to locate the actual nest. This was surprisingly easy and was found within a few seconds of walking into the known nesting area. It was a small nest and consisted purely of dried grass with no lining. It was built twenty-two inches off the ground and attached to two reed stems and one nettle stem. After being photographed, it was removed on July 28th for eventual preservation.

The juveniles remained in the general area during the first half of August, although confusion with juvenile Reed Warblers was a problem. These appeared frequently after wandering from the adjacent dykes. The last definite sighting was on August 23rd and after that the area became almost devoid of warblers. Presumably, all had departed by the end of the month.

With a nest found and young seen to fledge successfully, this is now the most fully documented instance of breeding in Norfolk. The species has bred before, however. In 1999, in Broadland, a male was heard singing on June 13th and was seen to be paired by 21st, nest-building by both birds being observed on the following day. By July 19th the pair was observed carrying food to the nest site, although it is not known if any young ever fledged. In 2009, in north Norfolk, a male was netted on June 16th in what was considered very suitable breeding habitat and where a local observer had suspected hearing a singing Marsh Warbler a few days earlier. Two juvenile Marsh Warblers were caught here on July 31st indicating successful breeding at this site or very close by.

Iceland Redpoll at Kelling in 2009 - New to Norfolk

Andy Stoddart

While watching a redpoll flock in a Kelling garden on the morning of March 24th 2009 I noticed a striking large, pale redpoll feeding on the ground. It immediately rang alarm bells as an 'Arctic-type' redpoll and stood out very clearly from the surrounding Mealy Redpolls (*flammea*). I couldn't take my eyes off it but its identity was not immediately apparent. It wasn't a Mealy Redpoll but it didn't look quite right for an *exilipes* Arctic Redpoll either, so what was it? It soon flew off but returned several more times over the next hour or so, both to the ground and to the feeders, enabling me to take some photographs. Interestingly, it was individually recognisable by tiny white dots on each longest tertial. I returned on 25th and 27th March, again had good views and took as many photographs as I could.

The bird was large, long and 'wide-bodied', noticeably larger/longer than nearby *flammea* and Siskins and approaching the size of a Greenland Redpoll (*rostrata*) frequenting the same garden. Indeed, when at the same feeder, it was these two birds which stood out by virtue of their size, length and bulk. The bird possessed some rather Arctic Redpoll-like structural characters, largely a function of feather density - a fat 'pug-faced', small-eyed look, bull-necked appearance, deep chest, broad 'shoulders', very long 'tubular', barrel-shaped body (like the *rostrata*), heavily 'trousered' tibia and long wings and tail. It showed a medium-sized bill with, like the *rostrata* and just visible in photographs, a convex upper mandible. On occasion it indulged in some classic Arctic Redpoll 'flank billowing', inflating its dense and fluffy flank feathering.

The key plumage features were a very pale head, washed with a pale straw/honey-buff glaze extending onto the upper breast where it contrasted sharply with the white underparts. The face was very plain and unmarked and there was no noticeable supercilium. The mantle and scapulars were tawny-brown with limited grey tones, slightly darker than the nape, marked with thin dark streaks, the pale feather fringes broader than the dark centres, and with no significant lining or white central 'tramlines'. The rump was bright white in ground colour but with grey streaking. When sleeked down, the streaking extended throughout the rump but when more 'fluffed up' the rump appeared whiter. As the bird was so 'fat', the rump was easily seen between parted wings - as is the case with Arctic Redpoll. The uppertail coverts were grey, broadly fringed white. The upper flanks were marked with short clustered streaking, continuing as grey lines right down the flanks, normally coalescing into three 'organised' thick lines. The ground colour of the flanks was pure white and when 'fluffed up' the flanks appeared white despite the presence of streaking. The longest undertail coverts had medium width dark grey arrowhead marks, strongest (very strong) on at least the longest two undertail coverts. Finally, the greater covert wing-bar was broad and white.

Right from the very first view, the bird did not resemble *flammea*. It was pale, buffy and, above all, large. I initially swung towards calling it a strangely large and very streaky *exilipes* Arctic Redpoll but squeezing it into this 'box' was difficult. After some lengthy deliberation, it seemed that pale *islandica* was perhaps a better option.

A number of redpoll enthusiasts at home and abroad were therefore consulted. All readily agreed that the bird was no *flammea* and that the features were also at variance with *exilipes*. It was too large, long-bodied and 'solid' and it had a convex upper mandible whilst the flank, rump and undertail covert patterns exceeded the boundaries of even an extremely streaked *exilipes*. The bird's size, structure and plumage accorded well, however, with a pale *islandica*. The typical features of such pale birds quoted in the literature are large size, long body shape, Arctic Redpoll-like fat, fluffy structure, plain face, buff wash to face/upper breast, brown (not grey) mantle and scapulars, absence of mantle 'tramlines', white but streaked rump, strongly 'three-lined' flanks on a white background and heavily-marked under-tail coverts. This bird showed all these features.

Although at first sight a surprising occurrence, the presence of a *rostrata* in the same flock makes the presence of an Icelandic bird much less shocking. With an influx of 'Northwest Redpolls'

to Britain in the winter of 2008/09, the evidence for a northwestern origin for this bird seems compelling.

The taxonomic position of redpolls in Iceland is not satisfactorily resolved, however, with both strikingly dark and strikingly pale birds present. Herremans (1990) proposes that Icelandic redpolls actually comprise two distinct forms, a dark form closely resembling *rostrata,* though averaging smaller, and a larger, pale form, the most extreme individuals of which closely resemble *exilipes* or even *hornemanni* Arctic Redpoll. The former, he suggests, should be termed *islandica* whilst the latter represent an as yet unnamed taxon. The fact that the pale redpolls differ consistently in measurements from the dark birds is strong evidence that the two types do not represent variation in a single taxon.

Given that the Kelling bird was a pale individual, its designation as an 'Iceland Redpoll' requires comment. Whilst pale Icelandic birds are currently treated as *islandica,* future work may grant them a new taxonomic status, at which point the Kelling bird will need to be re-labelled.

As a postscript, I visited Iceland in April 2011 and was able to spend long periods studying and photographing Icelandic redpolls, both small dark birds and large pale ones, as well as two Hornemann's Arctic Redpolls. It was gratifying to note that the characters shown by the Kelling bird readily matched those of the pale birds and that many were essentially indistinguishable from that individual.

I am very grateful to John Miller for his help in securing views and photographs of this bird and to Martin Garner, Roger Riddington and David Sibley for their helpful comments on its identity. I am particularly grateful to Richard Millington for inspiring final confidence in its identification.

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Trumpeter Finch at Blakeney Point and Cley - Second for Norfolk

Joe Cockram

Trumpeter Finch (*Gary Wright*)

The spring of 2010 had been a tough one for the wardens and regular birders of Blakeney Point. Despite some promising conditions, a lot of hard fieldwork had gone unrewarded, with none of the scarce or rare birds for which the site is legendary. May 31st dawned with brisk northeasterly winds and overnight rain, giving renewed hope, and fellow warden Paul Nichols reminded me that this was the very date that he and the other Wardens at the time had found Norfolk's first Trumpeter Finch two years previously.

We set out on the daily walk around the key spots with renewed optimism, hoping for similar success, but we had no idea just how similar it would be! After managing to find just a single Black Redstart it looked as if the disappointing theme was continuing and we returned to our home in the Lifeboat House at 0900. As we entered the building the phone rang - it was Coastal Warden Graham Lubbock enquiring how the breeding terns on the Point were coping with the recent grim weather. As we chatted, I casually glanced out of the window only to see a chunky pale passerine with a pink rump flying past and landing by some small bushes. With Trumpeter Finch still fresh in the mind from the earlier conversation with Paul, I knew it could only be one thing and promptly hung up on Graham.

Through the murk of rain-spattered binoculars and the salt-encrusted windows I could just about make out a sandy head and big orange bill poking out of the bottom of a *Suaeda* bush. It WAS a Trumpeter Finch, but surely a coincidence of this magnitude couldn't be possible! The bird was looking edgy and suddenly flew a short distance to disappear behind another clump of *Suaeda*. I shouted for Paul in a quavering voice that betrayed my disbelief, and he arrived just in time to answer the phone as it rang again. Graham was trying to finish the conversation that had been so rudely interrupted and as the bird appeared again Paul had to cut him off with: "I gotta go Graham, Joe's swearing at me something terrible". As soon as he saw the bird, Paul confirmed that I wasn't going crazy and we enjoyed good views of the Trumpeter Finch feeding in the open.

At a range of about twenty metres we admired the deep pink fringes to the flight feathers and the beautiful blush of the underparts and the face around the carrot-orange bill, allowing us to age and sex the bird as an adult male. After a few minutes the bird flew and appeared to land behind a nearby dune. We had a good look around the area but surprisingly couldn't re-find it. I had to take the boat over to Morston to pick up Warden Eddie Stubbings who was returning from a day off, so left the search to Paul. On returning, there was still no sign of the bird and despite covering all the areas of suitable habitat we did not see it again on the Point. It was a relief therefore when it was relocated at Cley a few hours later, where it stayed on the shingle ridge in the vicinity of the East Bank for the next three days.

This represents the second record for Norfolk, found at the same site and precisely two years after the first - a truly remarkable coincidence!

Iberian Chiffchaff at Titchwell - Third for Norfolk

Andy Stoddart

At about 1015 on April 29th 2010 I was guiding a couple of tour clients around Titchwell. Fortunately I decided to wander down the Meadow Trail as lots of warblers were singing. By the first pond I briefly watched a rather distant 'Chiffchaff' and whilst doing so became dimly aware of a song coming from somewhere which resembled Iberian Chiffchaff. However, the singing soon stopped and, persuading myself that I had imagined it, I continued to Fen Hide. On my return, however, I heard the song again, realised that it was indeed that of Iberian Chiffchaff and soon connected it with the 'Chiffchaff' I had seen earlier. The first scope views, with the bird still singing, showed the classic (albeit subtle!) structural and plumage features of Iberian Chiffchaff!

Unable to linger too long with the bird because of my clients' desire to see Bearded Tits, I phoned Richard Millington in the hope that he could come and see it and keep track of it until I could return. At about 1300 I returned to find that RGM and Mark Golley had just relocated the bird and we then enjoyed excellent prolonged views as it fed around us, singing on and off. At this point I obtained some acceptable photographs. The bird was still present the next day (when better photographs were taken and sound recordings made) but could not be found thereafter.

It was clearly a 'Chiffchaff-type', very similar to Chiffchaff although the bill appeared long, narrow and 'spiky' and the primary projection was longer than a typical Chiffchaff, appearing almost as long as the exposed tertials. The bird behaved exactly like a Chiffchaff, feeding delicately in the willows and frequently 'tail-dipping' in the typical Chiffchaff manner.

The plumage was very similar to Chiffchaff but with a number of minor differences which, added together, produced a subtly different impression, particularly in respect of the face pattern. The upperparts were a rather bright mossy green, strongest in sunlight, with no grey or olive hues. The rump was a contrastingly brighter lime green. The remiges and retrices were browner, the former with thin bright green fringes. The face pattern was rather weak despite a quite strong supercilium. The lores and eye-stripe were weakly marked and the ear-coverts completely plain, contributing to a 'bare-faced' or 'plain-faced' expression. The eye-ring was much reduced compared with Chiffchaff and absent above the eye. The supercilium, ear coverts chin, throat and upper breast were washed yellow, the rest of the underparts whitish, subtly suffused with grey and yellow. The undertail coverts were washed yellow.

The upper mandible was dark horn with a thin orange cutting edge, the lower mandible bright orange to the tip. The legs and feet were a medium pinky brown, clearly paler than a typical Chiffchaff.

The bird sang frequently, always giving a typical Iberian Chiffchaff song. There was no 'mixed singing' or 'song switching' and there were no elements of Chiffchaff or Willow Warbler song which might indicate a hybrid origin. The song was lowish in pitch, quite short (typically about three seconds in duration) and comprised three distinct phrase types. The song can perhaps be transcribed as '*chiff chiff chiff - wheet wheet - chachachachachacha*'. The first song element ('*chiff chiff*' or '*chiff chiff chiff*') comprised flat monotones whilst the second ('*wheet*' or '*wheet wheet*') consisted of a strongly rising note or notes. The third and final element was a hurried rattle.

The song varied somewhat, sometimes loud, confident and 'classic', at other times a quieter rendition in which the first two elements were always present but in which the rattle was abandoned towards the end. This variation may reflect simply the level of the bird's excitement or the prevailing weather/time of day. The short duration, low frequency (established from sonograms to be 3-7kHz, mainly 3-6kHz), rising '*wheet*' notes and three-part structure were entirely typical, indeed diagnostic, of Iberian Chiffchaff. No calls were heard.

This is the third record of Iberian Chiffchaff for Norfolk, following birds at Colney on April 21st to June 7th 2007 and (as detailed above) at Stiffkey on April 3rd 2010. Spring 2010 saw a record influx of Iberian Chiffchaffs to Britain and it seems certain that more can be expected in future.

River Warbler at Haddiscoe - Third for Norfolk

Chris Allen

River Warbler (*Gary Wright*)

My wife Alison and I have been fortunate to live on the edge of the marshes at Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe in southeast Norfolk for nearly fourteen years. A few years ago we had the opportunity to buy a block of some forty acres of wet grass marshes encircling a patch of alder carr which lie next to our house. We now manage the land primarily for wildlife and each year see both the quantity and variety of flora and fauna improve.

On the evening of Friday July 2nd 2010 I was just completing my regular walk round the marshes checking our livestock. It was a hot, still evening and I was in no rush to get home when I heard a very brief burst of 'song' from a large stand of alder scrub. Not being quite sure what I had heard, I decided to wait a while longer. Within a few minutes I heard a second brief burst and before I had the chance to wonder any further the bird (as I had by now concluded it must be) sang for probably twenty seconds. My first thought was that this was clearly a reeling *Locustella*, and just as obviously neither a Grasshopper nor Savi's Warbler, both of which I am familiar with. Although it was over twenty years since I had heard one (the 1989 Boughton Fen bird), my immediate conclusion was that I was listening to a River Warbler.

I waited probably another ten minutes during which time the bird began to sing with increasing frequency and duration. Although remaining unseen, it seemed to be settled so I rushed home to fetch Alison. Pausing only to confirm the identification via a downloaded recording we returned to find that the bird had now relocated to a reed-fringed dyke bisecting our marshes. Frustratingly, despite singing more and more strongly, we had still not seen the bird. Worried that we might not see it, and that it might move on overnight, I raced back home and grabbed an old Sony tape recorder and Sennheiser microphone. Fortunately these still had enough battery life to enable me to record a good five minutes of song. Feeling much relieved that we at least had some 'evidence', I sat back as the light started to fail. At this point, to my surprise I saw the bird shimmy its way up a prominent reed less than twenty metres from where I stood. The light was so poor that plumage detail was not clear, but the structure and jizz of the bird was obvious. I watched it until dark, by which time it was singing almost constantly from the same perch.

Returning at first light the next morning the bird had barely moved and spent the next couple of hours in open sight and in almost continuous song. We managed to get some 'record shots' of the bird and make field notes. By around 0700 the volume of song was decreasing and shortly after the bird dropped out of view.

The bird remained in the general area for the next twelve days and was last seen at dusk on 14th July. On most days it would sing from early evening until early the following morning, most

strongly after dark when we could easily hear it from our house some 250 metres away. Although it would occasionally sing during the day it was rarely seen apart from at dusk and dawn when it would normally pose in full view unless the wind was strong. Throughout its stay the bird remained remarkably faithful to its favourite dyke, only occasionally disappearing into one of the larger patches of alder scrub which adjoin the grass marshes. On consulting literature on the species' habits it was clear that the mix of wet rough grassland, reed-fringed dykes and alder scrub was a good approximation for its preferred breeding habitat.

Fortunately we were able to open the site to visiting birders and during its stay around a thousand people had the opportunity to enjoy the bird. The resulting collection raised nearly £2000, which was distributed equally between NWT and Birdlife International.

A description is as follows. The overall impression was of quite a large plain brown warbler with a notably broad and long tail. The combination of prominent tail and distinctly undulating flight made it easy to pick out if seen in flight.

The upperparts were a uniform olive brown. In good light the bird showed a pale eye-ring with a short indistinct supercilium extending to just behind the eye. The underparts were pale greyish-white with fine streaking on the throat becoming markedly heavier and thicker on the breast to create almost the impression of a breastband. The very long undertail coverts extended almost to the tip of the tail and were olive brown in colour with prominent pale tips creating a distinctive undertail pattern. The legs were pink and the bill brownish, although the lower mandible appeared paler.

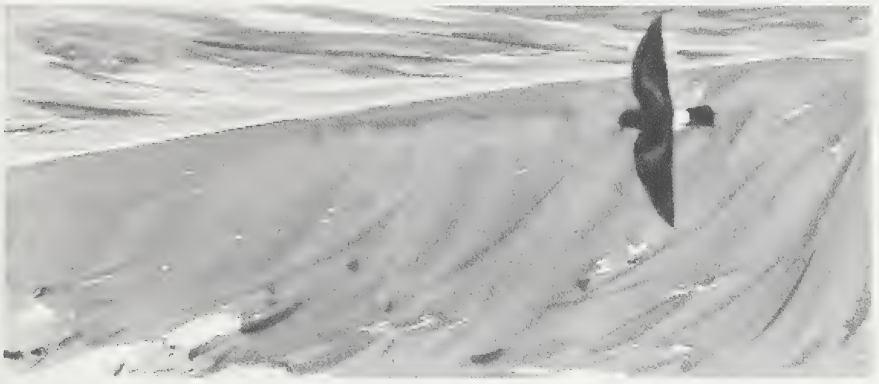
By far the most distinctive identification feature was its song - a monotonous mechanical insect-like reeling, quite unlike the other British *Locustella* warblers. Best described as sounding like a mechanical sewing machine, when heard at close range the impression was of two concurrent sounds - the 'sewing machine' (distinctly slower than the reel of a Grasshopper Warbler) and a faster metallic 'clicking'.

As a postscript, although the bird has been submitted to BBRC as having been present from July 2nd, it was almost certainly present from at least June 30th. Our neighbours reported hearing a 'Mediterranean cricket' on the preceding nights (and immediately recognised my recording of the bird), and I recall hearing myself a single two-second burst on the evening of June 30th.

River Warbler remains a very rare bird in Britain. The only previous Norfolk records involve similarly long-staying singing males at Roydon Common from May 29th to June 6th 1981 and at Boughton Fen from July 8th to 21st 1989.

Wilson's Petrel off Sheringham and Cley - New to Norfolk

Kevin Shepherd, James McCallum, Richard Millington and Mark Golley



Wilson's Petrel, Cley, July 2010 (*James McCallum*)

With fresh NNW winds and murky conditions forecast, several north coast birders were out seawatching early on 23rd July 2010 when a remarkable team effort secured a most unexpected addition to the county list. This article is based on extracts of the detailed accounts received from some of the observers involved. Kevin Shepherd was first to see the bird, as he describes:

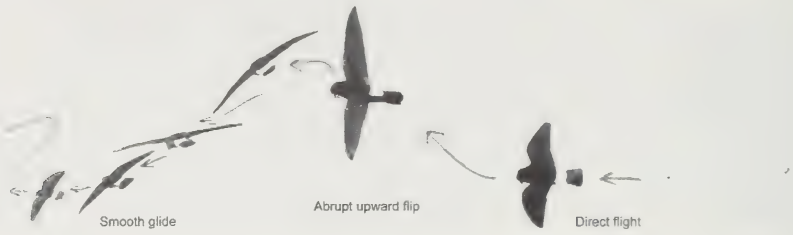
"I had made my usual pre-dawn (4.20 am) start at 'The Leas', Sheringham and enjoyed an excellent passage of 450+ Gannets and 500+ Sandwich Terns east during the first two hours. With such a volume of birds on the move, at a perfect time of year and in excellent conditions for one, I was carefully seeking a late-summer Storm Petrel when my efforts were suddenly rewarded with a petrel sp. out to the northeast, moving west. Engaged in steady, fast-flapping, direct flight low over the sea, too small and with wings too short for Leach's, I naturally assumed it was indeed a Storm Petrel, and relaxed to enjoy the bird as it continued its steady approach.

It was soon met by two relatively large 'green' waves and, as would have been typical for Storm, took the first completely in its stride as if it wasn't there, steadily beating up the wave's face to fly over the top. However, when it reached the very top, it suddenly did something completely unexpected and uncharacteristic of Storm - for no apparent need or reason, it suddenly sheared up (belly into the wind), then made a prolonged glide along the wave's face and into the trough ahead of the same wave, its then immediate return to steady flapping with gathered speed then successfully taking it over the same wave. In addition, particularly as it sheared, but also as it then glided, its wings suddenly didn't look so small after all. Instead they were slightly longer, and obviously much broader than I had previously imagined, suddenly conveying an overall 'jizz' and structure most unlike Storm. Briefly revealing its entire upperside in plan view during its first shear, it also seemed to show quite a noticeable broad pale upperwing-covert bar. Before I had time to properly process my thoughts, it was beating up the face of the second wave towards its top to deal with it in exactly the same way as the first. My now much more intense focus on its second shear and prolonged glide confirmed all earlier impressions. The whole bird was also now fairly obviously not 'tiny' like Storm at all - it was bigger, though certainly not as big or long-winged as Leach's. From the start it was obviously not a Leach's Petrel. Yikes! Now it was obviously not a Storm Petrel either!!

Suppressing all excitement, it was time for calm and careful observation, when it was easy to

confirm on several occasions that there was clearly no white on the underwing (given identical viewing conditions and range, white on the underwing of a Storm Petrel would have been clearly visible). The 'rump' (actually the uppertail coverts) was clearly very obvious and pure white throughout and also obviously 'wrapped around' to extend well on to the underside (though it was very difficult to be sure exactly how far it extended). Unfortunately, the bird was too far out to be able to discern any fine detail such as toes projecting beyond the tail.

Knowing that Madeiran was a relatively large, long-winged, very Leach's-like petrel (which this very obviously wasn't), the bird was presumably a Wilson's - but with no previous experience of this 'difficult' species, how could I be sure? Help was urgently required so, with the bird now obviously gone west, I simply dumped all my optical equipment and sprinted to the cliff-top to obtain a mobile signal, to try to alert the seawatchers at Cley that a very interesting petrel was heading their way....."



Wilson's Petrel flight action, Cley, July 2010 (*James McCallum*)

To the west, at Cley, James McCallum and Richard Millington were *in situ* at the beach shelter. The following extract from James's description continues the story:

"I arrived at Cley beach to find Richard already present. He had seen a few Manx Shearwaters so I decided to join him for a while. The totals of seabirds moving were not great but I did manage to see a few Manx Shearwaters and small numbers of Gannets. All too soon the passage began to ease and I was thinking of leaving when Richard received a call from home: it was Hazel passing on the message that 'Kevin Shepherd had seen, about ten minutes ago, a petrel moving west past Sheringham that wasn't a Leach's'. Being a bit 'slow' that morning I didn't really grasp what that implied, but thought the chance of seeing any petrel on a relatively flat sea was worth waiting for. By pure coincidence, Dave Holman, Christine Stean and Baz Harding arrived at about this time, as did Mark Golley on his clockwise tour of the reserve and Trevor Davies on his pre-work, anticlockwise route. With a petrel potentially on its way, everyone scanned the sea for it. After 15 minutes some were suggesting that we had already missed it or it had moved out to sea but I remembered that seabirds had, at times, taken a surprisingly long period of time to travel between these sites so I remained focused. After half-an-hour I think everybody was pessimistic and after 45 minutes most were thinking of leaving as there were virtually no other seabirds moving. People stopped looking so intently and started chatting and I joked that I was still 'very optimistic and tingling with excitement'. In reality I too was on the verge of folding up my tripod and leaving.

Then, to my amazement, a petrel suddenly flipped up into my view! It then glided into a wave trough and, without flapping, flipped up over a wave crest then continued its glide. The flight-mode was very interesting and I called out 'petrel', much to everyone's surprise. Unfortunately, in the ensuing panic my tripod got kicked so I instantly lost the bird! Being used to the choice of two species of petrel on a typical Norfolk seawatch my initial thought at this stage was, contrary to Kevin's thoughts, that the bird was flying in an accomplished and exciting manner that seemed much more reminiscent of a Leach's than a Storm Petrel.

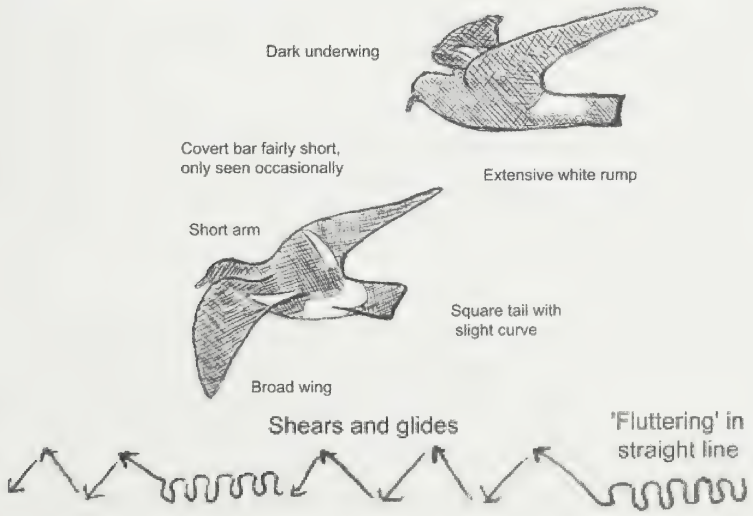
Fortunately the petrel was still a good way to the east when Richard picked it up again and everyone was quickly able to get on it. Seeing it again, I was surprised to see that its flight had

changed and it was flying directly with fairly rapid wingbeats just above the surface of the sea - a flight action I associated more with Storm Petrel than Leach's. The bird, however, looked distinctly bigger than a Storm Petrel and furthermore its overall shape and extensive, square-edged and gleaming white rump instantly ruled Leach's out of the equation. The petrel then flipped up abruptly at c90° to the sea before performing a smooth shallow glide downwards on flat wings, a flight action that was quickly repeated. This action, however, wasn't reminiscent of Storm Petrel. This was quickly proving to be a very interesting bird!"

Everybody present was able to get on the bird and although most of the observation was made in silent concentration there was an atmosphere of intense excitement. Richard's notes describe the appearance of the bird and the next sequence of events:

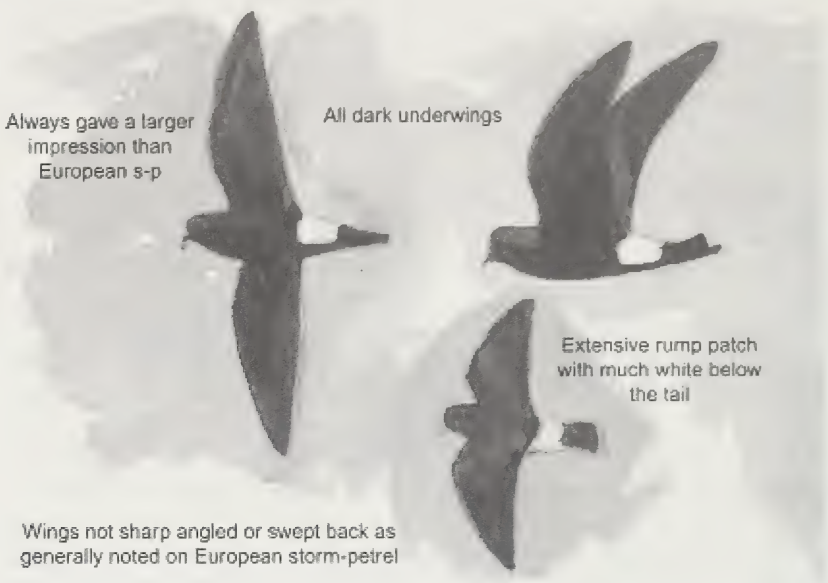
"My initial views were of the bird side-on. Although it was continuously flapping, in these profile views I was struck by the rather elongated-looking rear-end. In relation to the rest of the bird, this looked somehow narrower than usual too. It then swooped and briefly sheared on outstretched wings. It showed a rather bow-shaped wing and a short 'arm' but long 'hand'; the forewing profile was bulging and evenly rounded at the elbow but the hindwing was rather straight-edged. In addition, a short pale carpal bar was visible on the upper innerwing. Thus I voiced that the bird was 'looking good for Wilson's'. The bird then continued in a straight line with a continuous flapping action, and talk turned to that action surely being a Storm Petrel trait. However, although a 'wrap-around' white rump was visible (the white reaching below the level of the tail), there was no hint of the pale underwing bar that would be expected (and that surely would have been visible given the conditions) on Storm Petrel.

Throughout the whole viewing, no white was seen on the underwing, so it really had to be absent. Although the fast wing-beats were disconcerting, the bird lacked the busy, scurrying, bustling flight of Storm Petrel, nor did it hold its wings angled and it never had that squat, short-bodied look. Indeed, with the next bout of shearing glides the impression that it was a larger, more leisurely petrel than a Storm was taking shape and the realisation that this was neither a Storm nor a Leach's Petrel was firming up. Fortunately, as the bird progressed further west, veering further out and then closer in again, it indulged in far more banking and gliding. By now, straight-winged slip-shearing was the predominant mode of flight, effectively eliminating Storm Petrel. At this range, a more Leach's-like impression was gained, even though the size and wing-shape never approached that species. The bird was now side-sweeping waves with ease and no longer were the fluttering wing-beats of the earlier, more direct flight spells being utilised."



Wilson's Petrel, Cley, July 2010 (*Mark Golley*)

After the bird was lost to sight, the atmosphere of intense concentration turned to one of shock, for all present knew that they had witnessed something special. Naturally, much conversation followed, everybody agreeing that the bird was obviously not a Leach's or Storm Petrel. The age-old choice of two species of petrel on a Norfolk seawatch was suddenly obsolete! From whatever angle the observation was looked at, Wilson's Petrel was the only possibility!


Always gave a larger impression than European s-p
All dark underwings
Extensive rump patch with much white below the tail
Wings not sharp angled or swept back as generally noted on European storm-petrel

Wilson's Petrel, Cley, July 2010 (*James McCallum*)

Most of the observers had previous experience of Wilson's Petrel and all agreed that the plumage was consistent with their experience of the species. The aspect of the bird that generated some confusion was, however, its flight mode. The majority of observers with past experience felt that the flight was close to their previous experience. For example, Mark states in his description:

"My most recent encounter with the species came less than two weeks before the Cley bird. While working at the World Cup in South Africa, I managed to take a place on a pelagic that headed some 20 miles off Cape Point and amongst all the albatrosses, Sooty Shearwaters, Kelp Gulls and skuas, I was able to watch at least 20-30 Wilson's Petrels at close to moderate range, off and on, for at least two hours. Plumage details aside, the most pleasing aspect of the sighting on 23rd July was the near-identical flight pattern shown by the birds in South Africa and the individual off Cley - the characteristic swift transit across the sea on rapid wing-beats, coupled with numerous shears and glides was just the same, despite there being several thousand miles between the sightings."

Richard shared a similar view:

"I have had experience previously with Wilson's Petrel in two different ways. Initially, the famous St. Ives bird of 3rd September 1983, watched mostly from directly above, its main identification feature being the double row of circular concentric waves it left behind as it hopped along, dipping both of its feet into the calm water! More recently, I've been with Killian Mullarney at Bridges of Ross when he's picked up Wilson's Petrels flying by in windy conditions ... but on every one of the three occasions I had trouble convincing myself that I could really eliminate Storm until the point at which each bird began to swoop left and away. The Cley event closely recalled the latter experiences, but

there was one major difference - Wilson's Petrel occurs regularly off western Ireland ... in the North Sea it does not!"

However, for others the flight of the Cley bird did not comfortably fit their past experience of the species. In his description James explains his confusion:

"Just the previous August I had my first encounters with Wilson's Petrel from boats off the Isles of Scilly. At least eleven birds were seen over three days. Two weeks later I was really fortunate to see two birds from a land-based seawatch from Pendeen in Cornwall. The two Wilson's seen in a seawatch context I naturally assumed would be most relevant when comparing the bird seen off Cley. Both the Pendeen birds I picked up due to their distinctive flight. The first bird was slightly closer than the Cley petrel and, although initially flapping, it then began an amazing prolonged glide on slightly depressed wings before stopping to 'dance' over the surface then simply glided off. It hardly flapped at all until I lost it in the rough sea. The second bird was slightly further out - probably at a similar range to the Cley bird. This bird was first seen continually 'bouncing' over the same area of sea for about a full minute! It then glided in the same way as the first before rapidly fluttering off. Looking back I actually saw the covert bar of the first bird once, clearly, if only very briefly when it was gliding and not at all on the second bird. However, the flight mode of those two birds was very different to that of the Cley bird."

Puzzled by these conflicting experiences of the flight action of Wilson's Petrels, James decided to contact Bob Flood who kindly read through his account of the Cley bird and gave the following reply:

"I just read through your description of the Norfolk Wilson's. I can appreciate your frustration. It is easy to get muddled over flight behaviour unless it is understood that there are three main types: travelling, foraging and collecting. Much of what we saw off Scilly was foraging and collecting - foraging with hirundine-like flight and collecting by snatching off the surface as the Wilson's kept going, or collecting by dancing. Your Pendeen Wilson's were also foraging and collecting. The Norfolk Wilson's, by your account, was in travelling flight. Travelling flight of Wilson's is different. The following account of travelling flight of Wilson's is taken from the forthcoming DVD-book set 'Storm-petrels & Bulwer's Petrel': 'Travelling flight: Purposeful and fairly direct, frequently glides; wing beats stiff, fast, and shallow. In relaxed traveling flight, it often glides and veers from side-to-side, reminiscent of a Barn Swallow. It regularly shears short distances in moderate to strong winds.' Your description of the travelling flight behaviour of the Norfolk bird is good for Wilson's. The amount of gliding and shearing by the Norfolk bird is excessive for Storm Petrel."

With Bob Flood's short but precise explanation the confusion instantly subsided and, at last, everyone could fully enjoy this exciting record. With warming seas, better optics and a more open-minded approach to seawatching, further North Sea records of Wilson's Petrels are sure to follow. Clearly we no longer have the familiar choice of just two species of 'black-and-white' petrel on future Norfolk seawatches!

Apparent Alder Flycatcher on Blakeney Point - New to Norfolk

James McCallum

Apparent Alder Flycatcher and Chiffchaff (*James McCallum*)

Early on the morning of 24th September I had walked out to Blakeney Point as the weather promised to be good for seawatching. True to the forecast the wind turned northwest, then increased in strength and seabirds gradually began to appear closer inshore. By the afternoon it was blowing a gale and raining and a constant stream of birds was passing by, the highlights being an exceptional passage of nearly 500 Great Skuas and good views of scarce seabirds such as Leach's Petrels and Long-tailed Skuas. Being friends with the current staff and having been a former seasonal warden, I had the privilege of staying the night and seawatching again from first light.

At dawn on 25th I set out with high hopes of another good seabird passage but in spite of the gale-force northerly winds there was much less moving. By mid-morning I had given up and decided to have a walk around the reserve to see if any migrant birds had been blown in. The landscape was wild and spectacular. The tide was one of the highest of the year and was covering much of the marsh, highlighting the shape of the shingle spit that ran back eastwards towards Cley. Huge waves were crashing onto the beach sending clouds of spray right over the ridge while a mass of foam was being blown across the ridge by the strong winds.

Many of the *Suaeda* bushes were underwater so the area of available cover for migrant birds was greatly reduced. As I set out a Wheatear flashed passed and soon afterwards I noticed a Redstart cowering on the shingle on the leeward side of the main ridge. I took a few photos of the landscape then headed towards the Plantation to see if any migrant birds were present. On my arrival I saw a young Peregrine hanging in the air above the shrubby trees with its eyes firmly fixed on a Song Thrush. The falcon, on seeing my approach, quickly headed off, flushing a Redwing from the dunes in the process - my first of the autumn. Another Wheatear appeared on the roof of the huts but there seemed to be little else around so I headed back to the Lifeboat House to see the Wardens.

After lunch Paul Nichols joined me for another look around. The 'Lupins' held a Goldcrest and a Garden Warbler, indicating that birds were indeed arriving, albeit in small numbers. Next we headed to the Plantation, Paul taking the western edge and I the eastern. Song Thrush numbers had increased to three and Redwings to two. On reaching the northern boundary of the trees a lovely fresh-plumaged Chiffchaff was in a small lupin bush and as I watched it I noticed that further back,

viewable between a fork in one of the white poplars, was another passerine. It was perched back-on and sitting motionless, looking back at me over its shoulder. Its plumage was adorned with striking whitish double wingbars and tertial edges whilst its large dark eye was surrounded by a thin pale eyering. I shouted and gestured to Paul to quickly join me, announcing that I was looking at "some kind of American flycatcher!"

Looking back, I am surprised how calm we both were. Maybe we were in shock at seeing such a rare Nearctic vagrant, and on the east coast of all places. Not long after we began watching the flycatcher a persistent heavy downpour commenced so we retreated indoors to fetch Eddie Stubbings, our scopes, notebooks and my video camera.

There were no relevant field guides in the Lifeboat House so, as it was still pouring with rain, we grabbed the opportunity to quickly look at the internet to see if we could gain any information to help us identify the bird. It was immediately clear that the *Empidonax* flycatchers are an identification minefield so we soon switched it off again - if nothing else at least we had learned a new Latin word! We phoned the news out, then went back to watch the real thing while we waited for assistance to arrive.

Notes were taken and I managed to obtain some reasonable video footage by filming through my telescope. At least we had some photographic documentation just in case the bird suddenly disappeared. We realised that in this particular situation photographs were going to be key in correctly identifying the flycatcher. We had learned that *Empidonax* flycatchers were notoriously tricky to identify in their home range by those with relevant experience, so the identity of a vagrant bird on Blakeney Point was unlikely to be clinched overnight!

The bird stayed until the evening of the 27th and despite terrible weather it showed very well during its stay. Its arrival generated lots of interest and it was subsequently seen by many observers and a series of excellent images were obtained. The flycatcher's identity was of course much debated, candidate species including Alder, Willow and Least Flycatchers. Various other possibilities were also touted, including Acadian and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, the latter especially prompted by an undoubted lemon-yellow wash on its throat, central breast and belly. Eventually, however, the majority feeling both here and in the United States was that the true identity of the Blakeney Point bird was a first-winter Alder Flycatcher.

Another *Empidonax*, also believed to be an Alder Flycatcher, has been recorded once before in Britain - in Cornwall in October 2008. With *Empidonax* flycatchers being so difficult to identify, both the Cornwall and Norfolk records are, at the time of writing, still being assessed by the BBRC and BOURC. There is only one other Western Palearctic record of Alder Flycatcher, a first-winter in Iceland in October 2003.

Although the bird was reasonably active during much of its stay it was noticeably so during the late afternoon of the 27th. During this time it was seen to make repeated high aerial pursuits of insects, often vertically above the canopy. It also briefly ventured as far as the *yucca* plant near the boardwalk and even once to the 'Lupins'. Such active behaviour late in the day from migrant birds can hint that they are ready to migrate that same evening and in addition the weather was rapidly improving. It therefore came as no great surprise when the flycatcher was not present the following morning.

It is interesting to speculate as to how an American flycatcher ended up on the east coast of Britain. It is conceivable that it got caught up in Atlantic weather systems which brought it into the North Atlantic only to be pushed down the North Sea by the northwesterly gales until finally making landfall on Blakeney Point. It is equally possible that it may have been blown off course and first made landfall somewhere such as Greenland or Iceland then, after feeding up for a few days, continued with its journey only to be caught up in the northwesterly gales and deposited on the Norfolk coast. The real story we will, of course, never know but such mysteries are what make bird migration and vagrancy such an interesting and exciting subject.

Northern Harrier - New to Norfolk

Stuart White

Northern Harrier (*Phil Jones*)

Discovery

I had long dreamed of finding an American 'mega' in Norfolk, but in my early days it was usually going to be a Parula Warbler on my paper round in Norwich! In the autumn of 2010 that dream finally came true but, instead of the expected elation, I ended up with a 28-day headache and many sleep-disturbed nights, but at least it was all worth it in the end!

On 27th October I was leading a tour for the *Bird ID Company*. The day had been very successful, with the group seeing a good selection of birds along the north coast. During the early afternoon, we headed to Burnham Overy Marshes to look for a Rough-legged Buzzard which had been present for several days. Soon after our arrival, we 'scoped the bird from the road, but we decided to leave the assembled crowd to obtain better views along the seawall. We did indeed get much better views of the buzzard but, while standing on the bank a few hundred yards short of the dunes, I noticed a 'ringtail' harrier flying over, heading towards Gun Hill. I quickly got the group onto the bird and then managed to 'scope it for a few minutes in near perfect light. Initially the bird was hunting over the saltmarsh to the west of the seawall and we then saw it perch briefly on bushes towards Gun Hill. It also drifted closer, over the saltmarsh, before flying towards us and over the seawall, heading for Holkham.

Identification

Given the date and location, my natural assumption was that the bird would be a Hen Harrier but I was very surprised to see that it appeared to display strikingly unstreaked apricot-coloured underparts. It also looked very dark above and showed warm buff-coloured patches on the upperwing coverts and bright sides to the tail. Many thoughts were going through my mind - the brightness of the underparts made me think first of Montagu's Harrier but it certainly didn't have the rakish appearance of that species and the wings looked quite broad too.

Next I thought of Pallid Harrier, remembering the bird seen at Holme earlier in the month. I noted that the sides of the neck were dark and spent some time trying to make out a pale collar and contrasting 'boa', but neither feature was obvious. Instead, it just appeared to have a dark hood and a dark throat. Again I was stumped. On size and structure it looked like a Hen Harrier and, when it came closer, I was able to count five obvious primary 'fingers', ruling out both of the rarer species. The underside of the primaries had dark tips and were heavily barred dark on a pale background.

I made a few notes and carried on with the tour. When I got home later that evening, the first book I checked was the Macmillan *Guide to Bird Identification* where it stated under Hen Harrier: "some juveniles are strongly orange below and may suggest the North American race *hudsonius*". This looked quite a lot like my bird so that evening I posted a note on one of the internet chat forums telling people to look out for a very orange 'ringtail' harrier which might just be a Northern Harrier. At this time, I was unaware of all the differences between *cyaneus* and *hudsonius*.

Just one person, Mark Golley, took the bait and headed out to Burnham Overy the following afternoon. He re-found the bird and enjoyed views of it from pretty much the same place along the seawall, the bird doing almost exactly the same thing as the previous day (flying west towards Gun Hill, quartering the dunes and saltings, then making a quick eastward pass back towards Holkham). Mark contacted me that night to agree on how interesting the bird looked and that it was indeed, however fanciful it seemed, a 'great fit' for Northern Harrier.

Over the following week a few more posts on forums and emails were sent, and phone-calls were made by both of us, trying to generate some interest in the bird and to see if anyone else had seen or photographed it. It was then seen at Wells East Hills on 30th October and the following day at Blakeney Point.

I saw the bird again when guiding on Sunday 7th November, again over Burnham Overy marshes, this time looking into direct sunlight. Still it looked very distinctive, still appearing largely unstreaked below and very 'hooded'. That night I phoned Rare Bird Alert and they agreed to put it on the pager as a 'possible', mainly to get people looking and, hopefully, secure a photograph.

Two weeks passed with only distant sporadic sightings. I, along with a few other observers, spent many hours trying to see the bird again but never succeeded. The trail seemed to have gone cold once more and despondency set in. Things 'looked up', however, over the weekend of 20th/21st with the bird being upgraded to a 'probable' as it was seen well at Burnham Norton on Saturday and again by Mark at Morston on Sunday, though its movements still seemed somewhat unpredictable. Then, finally, came the breakthrough, a full four weeks after my initial sighting - a phone-call alerting me to three photographs on the internet.

This set of images, taken by Robin Chittenden at Holme a few days earlier, clearly showed the bird in question and, more importantly, also showed the classic underwing pattern of *hudsonius*! This, along with numerous other 'pro-Northern Harrier' features, was enough for confidence in the bird's identity to rise yet further.

The bird finally settled into a pattern and I eventually saw it again on 26th November over Thornham marshes and subsequently many times over the winter period. It occasionally wandered away from the Thornham and Titchwell area (going missing completely for several days during a cold snap in early December) but it returned before Christmas and stayed largely faithful to the marshes around Thornham until at least February 27th 2011, where it was enjoyed by hundreds of observers.

Description

Size and Structure

The bird was of a similar size and structure to Hen Harrier. It never looked particularly large, though size variation between the sexes in both forms makes an accurate assessment problematic.

Plumage

The bird showed very dark upperparts, apart from the apricot-buff wing covert patches and, when seen close on the first couple of days in late October at least, neat rows of pale buff tips to the upperwing coverts. The tail was dark except for the deep apricot-buff bars, most noticeable on the sides of the tail (when spread, the tail was reminiscent of Montagu's Harrier with its pattern of alternate dark and pale bars, most richly coloured at the sides). The rump was large and white (almost 'puffy' in appearance) giving a distinct 'wrap-around' effect - always looking more extensive than on *cyaneus*. The bird had a dark head, neck sides and throat which gave it a striking hooded appearance.

The pale markings in the face were quite limited compared with *cyaneus*, with just a small pale line above the eye and a small pale 'bag'/triangle under the eye.

The underparts were apricot-coloured, rich and 'solid' in appearance, and also unstreaked (unless seen at very close quarters, when darker streaks were noticeable on the orange background colour). This streaking was limited to the upper breast and the upper and mid flanks. Despite these streaks 'bleeding' from the throat there was still a very clear cut demarcation between the dark throat and the orange breast. There was no streaking on the rear flanks, belly or undertail.

In the field, the underwing showed warm buffy-apricot coverts and heavily barred primaries with dark tips. From photographs it was also possible to see a narrow middle bar across the secondaries, a relatively indistinct trailing edge to the inner primaries and, crucially, the exact number of bars on the outer primaries. The bird clearly showed four bars (not counting the tip) on P10 (the outermost primary) with six on both P9 and P8, *cyaneus* generally showing a pattern of 3-5-5 on P10, P9 and P8.

Bare Parts

Legs feet and cere yellow, bill dark. Iris pale, indicating (along with size, structure, number of bars on the underside of the primaries and the degree of streaking on the flanks) a juvenile male.

Behaviour

The bird mainly hunted the extensive saltings at Thornham, frequently feeding on carrion (courtesy of one of the local wintering Peregrines), with regular sorties over the reedbeds and marshes at both Titchwell and Holme. It was seen going to roost in the *Suaeda* at the east end of Brancaster golf course on a couple of occasions but otherwise its roost habits remained a mystery. Scolt Head and Gun Hill were both suggested as possible roost sites, as were the Hen Harrier roost at Warham and the reedbed at Gypsy Lane (just east of Titchwell) but, apart from a few reports of 'possibles' and 'probables', no concrete evidence was forthcoming. It seems likely that, on any given day, it would simply roost wherever it found itself at dusk.

The bird perhaps favoured the coastal marshes more during the day more than did the wintering Hen Harriers. Here, its hunting behaviour was similar to that employed by the Hen Harriers but it was possibly inclined to linger more in one spot and engage in bouts of persistent hovering. Many observers also noted that it seemed perhaps more approachable than the Hen Harriers.

Discussion

Along with trying to convince observers that this was indeed a Northern Harrier, a further obstacle (for some) was understanding how a Nearctic raptor had made it to the English east coast. Clearly its precise route to Burnham Overy will never be known but it did appear barely a month after an apparent Alder Flycatcher on Blakeney Point. Significantly, October 2010 was a great month for Nearctic arrivals in Britain and Ireland and other landbirds, notably a Common Nighthawk and a Red-eyed Vireo, also made landfall on the east coast.

The last week of October 2010 failed to produce any particularly fast-moving transatlantic weather systems but there was nevertheless a series of frontal systems running across the Atlantic and it seems as though this 'chain' of fronts, coupled with a (presumably) significant departure of Northern Harriers from the eastern seaboard of North America was sufficient to produce an unprecedented arrival in Britain. The same weather systems also prompted the arrival of an American Bittern in Cornwall.

The Norfolk Northern Harrier was the first of a remarkable four (probably five) birds to appear during the late/autumn and winter of 2010/11. Just a couple of days after my initial sighting at Burnham Overy, a striking juvenile female was discovered at Tacumshin in County Wexford, Ireland. Then, in mid-November, a second Irish bird, a juvenile male, was identified at Kilcoole, County Wicklow, followed by a strong claim of another wintering juvenile male, this time in west Cornwall. Finally, another juvenile female was discovered in the late winter on the Outer Hebrides.

Prior to this bird, there was just one accepted record of Northern Harrier on the British List - a

juvenile seen around the Isles of Scilly from October 1982 to June 1983. However, as interest grew in both the Norfolk and Wexford birds of 2010, images came to light of an unequivocal second-year male Northern Harrier in County Durham, taken in February 2009, and this bird has now also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. The Norfolk bird will therefore become the third British record of Northern Harrier.

Connoisseurs of Norfolk birding (and those of a certain vintage!) will be familiar with a famous previous report of Northern Harrier in Norfolk - found by Richard Richardson at Cley on 28th October 1957, almost 54 years to the day before the Northern Harrier of 2010. This wintering bird was the subject of much discussion at the time, and the debate over its identity rumbled on for a decade or so before Ian Wallace pronounced that it was indeed "an immature of the American race of the Hen Harrier…." The bird's identity remained 'proven' until, in 1983, the late Peter Grant published a review of the record (and two other submissions) in *British Birds* where he said "that reasonable doubt now hangs over the real provenance of the Cley harrier, and that a firmer case for its identification as *hudsonius* needs to be made." The issue of rufous juvenile Hen Harriers was cited as a significant identification pitfall and an examination of Ian Wallace's plate from 1968 shows a head pattern which would certainly be outside of the range of what is now recognised as acceptable for Northern Harrier. The Cley harrier of 1957/58 will forever, it seems, remain an unresolved mystery.

Currently, Northern Harrier (long referred to by the more evocative name of 'American Marsh Hawk') remains a subspecies of Hen Harrier on the BOU British List. However, the distinctive field appearance of juveniles and adult and second-year males (at least) provides a strong argument for the elevation of Northern Harrier to full species status. Further evidence to support specific status for Northern Harrier is to be presented in a forthcoming paper in *Ibis*.

Whatever the outcome of taxonomic deliberations, however, all who were able to enjoy this striking bird are surely agreed that, subspecies or otherwise, Norfolk's already wonderful winter birding was made even more special by its prolonged presence.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Mark Golley for his early and continuing confidence in this record and for his valuable input to the drafting of this article.

Northern Treecreeper at Kelling

Edward Stubbings

On the afternoon of 11th December 2010, while ringing at Kelling with my ringing trainer, I caught a Treecreeper which was immediately striking due to its pale, 'frosty' appearance. Knowing that it was potentially a Treecreeper of the northern European nominate form, we noted its basic plumage features, took a series of measurements and, despite the failing light, secured some photographs. A summary of the bird's features is set out below.

Plumage

The bird was indeed pale and 'frosty', being strongly lined white on its upperparts, accentuating the contrast with a strongly rufous rump. The supercilium, including the fore-supercilium, was bold, broad and clean white. The whole underparts, including the flanks, were similarly bright silky white with only the faintest of buff washes on the undertail coverts.

Measurements

The two most significant measurements were the bill and hind claw and, for each, the mean of three measurements was taken. The bill length of 20mm fell outside that of *britannica* (14.3-19.1) but within that of *familiaris* (14.6-20.8) whilst, at 9.9mm, the hind claw was also outside the range of British birds (7.8-9.7) but within that of Northern Treecreeper (8.2-11.6).

Discussion

Given that the bird was both described and photographed and that all the plumage features and measurements were fully consistent with Northern Treecreeper and outside the range of *britannica*, the County Records Committee has accepted the bird as *familiaris*.

This is, of course, a significant record. There has long been speculation that Northern Treecreepers may occur in the county, indeed two records are listed in Taylor *et al.* 1999 and also feature in the Norfolk Bird Report - Weybourne on 4th November 1978 and Holme on 2nd November 1987. However, there is no indication in these sources that either of these birds was trapped, nor are any supporting details published or available. This bird therefore provides the first opportunity to fully document what is presumably a rare bird in Norfolk. Given the new focus on the documentation of scarce and rare bird forms in the county now promoted by the Bird Report, we can hopefully look forward to further records of this form in future, though measurements and photographs would appear to be minimum requirements for acceptance.

References

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The Systematic List

Introduction

The Systematic List contains records from the county of Norfolk for 2010, with occasional additional records or corrections to earlier Reports.

It incorporates records from coordinated surveys but most records are *ad hoc* observations. As such, the Report is unsystematic, reflecting observer interests, distribution, weather and other factors. Records have been submitted directly by observers and have also been obtained from other sources, including Birdline, Birdline East Anglia, Rare Bird Alert and The British Trust for Ornithology's 'BirdTrack'. For details of submission arrangements for all records see *'Notes for Contributors'*.

Records have been input to the county's records database by a team of record inputters and species texts have been drafted by a team of volunteer writers. The Systematic List has then been compiled by the Editor.

Unless otherwise stated, all records are of single birds and relate to 2010. Unless stated otherwise, all records of rare and scarce birds have been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committeee or the County Records Committee respectively. Observers' initials are given for all national and county rarities and for a few other exceptional records. Normally the initials of the finder(s) and/or identifier(s) are given (where known).

Where tables are used in the species accounts these refer to monthly maximum counts for main sites unless otherwise stated. A dash indicates that no count details have been received or no birds were present. For wildfowl and waders the data generally derives from the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts although if higher totals are available these are used instead. Readers are also referred to the tables giving composite counts for the Wash, North Coast and Breydon/Berney which should be read in conjunction with the individual species accounts.

Scope

The Systematic List follows *'The British List: a checklist of the birds of Britain'* (7th edition, July 2006), published by the British Ornitholgists' Union. This categorises species as follows:-

Category A	Species which have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950.
Category B	Species which would otherwise be in Category A but which have not been recorded since 31st December 1949.
Category C	Species which, although originally introduced by man, either deliberately or accidentally, have established self-sustaining breeding populations.
Category D	Species which would otherwise appear in Categories A or B except that there is doubt that they have ever occurred in a wild state.
Category E	Species which have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapes from captivity, and whose breeding populations are not thought to be self-sustaining.

Included in the Systematic List are all relevant species categorised by BOU as A or C and which are not proven or near-proven escapes. Those categorised D or E, and those in categories A, B or C which are proven or near-proven escapes, are treated in an Appendix.

Taxonomy and Species Order

The BOU 'official list' is followed in respect of taxonomy and species order. All BOU updates published at the time of going to press are incorporated. For full details see the BOU website at www.bou.org.uk.

Particular attention is given to the form(s) which occur(s) in the county. Avian taxonomy is in a state of constant flux and such treatment will enable occurrence patterns to be documented for

all forms should their future taxonomic status change. Conservation priorities are also increasingly being identified on the basis of forms rather than species. It is therefore hoped that this emphasis on forms will enable more precise recording and also maximise the contribution to conservation monitoring efforts.

For monotypic species, of course, no racial distinctions are necessary but for polytypic species with only one form occurring in Norfolk, the form involved is indicated in the species header line. For polytypic species with two or more poorly-defined or clinal forms occurring in the county, where field identification may be unreliable, the forms involved are indicated in the accompanying status text.

However, several forms which are reasonably well-defined, non-clinal, which can generally be identified in the field and which may be the subject of future taxonomic adjustments (for example Taiga and Tundra Bean Geese, European and Greenland White-fronted Geese, Dark and Pale-bellied Brent Geese and Black Brant, Hen and Northern Harriers, Chiffchaff and Siberian Chiffchaff, Stonechat and Siberian Stonechat, Pied and White Wagtails and Yellow, Blue-headed and Grey-headed Wagtails) are dealt with separately. Their debated taxonomic status is indicated by the use of parentheses for the specific name.

Nomenclature

Throughout the Systematic List, the English vernacular name is given first, followed by the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) international English name (where different) and the current scientific name. For full details see the BOU website at www.bou.org.uk. A number of forms are popularly known by a vernacular name which is also given in parentheses where appropriate.

Status and Abundance Descriptors

The following status descriptors are used in the headers to the species texts:

Vagrant	A bird well outside its usual range
Irruptive Visitor	Occurs erratically in response to food shortage in the home range
Passage Migrant	Mainly a migrant in spring and/or autumn
Resident	Breeds and present all year
Winter Visitor	Mainly occurs in winter
Summer Visitor	Mainly occurs as a breeding visitor in summer
Naturalised	Introduced deliberately or accidentally by man and now breeds in the wild

The following abundance descriptors are used in the headers to the species texts:

Abundant	60,000+ per year
Very Common	10,001-60,000 per year
Common	2,001-10,000 per year
Fairly Common	201-2,000 per year
Scarce	21-200 per year
Very Scarce	2-20 per year
Rare	Annual or near-annual
Very Rare	Less than annual

Conservation Status

Each species header also indicates whether the species/form is included in the 'Red', 'Amber' or 'Green' List of '*Birds of Conservation Concern 3 - The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man*' (*British Birds* 102: 296-341).

'Red List' species/forms are those which are 'Globally Threatened' according to IUCN criteria, those whose population or range has declined rapidly over a twenty-five year period and those which

have suffered a historical decline in breeding population.

'Amber List' species/forms are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe, those whose population or range has declined moderately over a twenty-five year period, those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery, rare breeders and those with internationally important or localised populations.

'Green List' species/forms are those which meet none of the above criteria.

WeBS thresholds for international or national importance are given for all species where numbers approach, match or exceed one or more thresholds. International importance signifies that 1% of the birds of a flyway or population regularly use a site during their annual cycle.

Recording Conventions

Although much of the county's coast is aligned northwest to southeast, for the sake of simplicity coastal movements north and west of Happisburgh are referred to as east or west, whilst those to the south and east of Happisburgh are referred to as north or south.

Many records to the west of Sheringham, although properly in Weybourne, fall within the area covered by Sheringham Bird Observatory and are for the sake of simplicity referred to 'Sheringham'.

The area previously referred to as 'Lakenheath Washes' is now called 'Hockwold Washes' to avoid confusion with the adjacent Lakenheath Fen RSPB reserve which is situated in Suffolk.

The area referred to as 'Mid-Yare RSPB' includes the reserve at Strumpshaw as well as adjoining land under the Society's ownership or control.

Where details of breeding birds are given as 'Holkham NNR' these refer to the grazing marshes at Holkham, Burnham Overy and Burnham Norton.

For the sake of clarity in future reports, observers of birds at 'Wells', 'Holkham' or in 'Holkham Meals' are asked to distinguish carefully between Burnham Overy Dunes, Holkham (west of Lady Anne's Drive), Wells (east of Lady Anne's Drive), East Hills (Lodge Marsh), Holkham Park and Wells Town.

To minimise any potential threats, some records of rare breeding birds are published under a vague site descriptor. This approach is only taken in a few instances, however, and the presumption is always to publish locations wherever it is considered safe to do so.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations used in the Report may be found in the following list:

Ad	Adult
BB	*British Birds*
BBRC	*British Birds* Rarities Committee
BeBS	Beached Bird Survey
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey
BF	Beet Factory
BO	Bird Observatory
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union
BOURC	British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BWP	Birds of the Western Palearctic
Ca	Approximately
Cf	Compared with
CRC	County Records Committee
CP	Coastal/Country Park
E	East
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
et al.	and others
FM	Fresh Marsh
GC	Golf Course
GM	Grazing Marsh
GP	Gravel Pit
Hbr	Harbour
Imm	Immature
Ind Est	Industrial Estate
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Council
Juv	Juvenile

N	North
NBA	Norfolk Bird Atlas
NBR	Norfolk Bird Report
NRC	Norfolk Records Committee
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NNNS	Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society
NR	Nature Reserve
NRS	Nest Record Scheme
NT	National Trust
NWT	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Per	Via
Prs	Pairs
RC	Relief Channel
Res	Reservoir
RBBP	Rare Breeding Birds Panel
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
S	South
SM	Saltmarsh
St.	Saint
St.	Street
STW	Sewage Treatment Works
TA	Training Area
W	West
WBS	Waterways Birds Survey
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
WM	Water Meadow
WP	Water Park
WR	Wildfowl Reserve
WWT	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Yr/Yrs	Year/Years

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident. Green List.

Highest numbers at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Blakeney GM	5	6	10	9	4	-	6	-	8	-	-	13
Cley	6	17	17	12	10	8	3	5	3	8	21	17
Whitlingham CP	86	-	-	-	-	46	89	121	86	69	-	-
Ouse Washes	152	49	177	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	34	9
Welney	124	45	64	-	-	20	-	-	-	19	-	40
Breydon/Berney	49	63	43	67	67	57	41	47	49	43	56	87
Nar Valley Fisheries	-	-	35	-	102	38	68	98	53	43	-	-

Other concentrations: *Jan* 50 Halvergate Marshes; *Feb* 120 Thorpe Whitlingham Marshes, 50 Halvergate Marshes, 116 Chedgrave Marshes, 120 Haddiscoe; *March* 50 Claxton Marshes; *April* 59 Pentney GP, 55 Ringland; *May* 60 Sennowe Park; *July* 93 Stanford Water, 71 Narford Lake; *Aug* 56 Gunton Park, 60 Ormesby Broad; *Sept* 74 Ormesby Little Broad, 117 Hockwold Washes.

Records of 91 nests/broods: 19 Berney, 2 Breydon, 3 Chedgrave Marshes, 4 Cley, East Lexham, Glandford, Halvergate Marshes, Hardley Marshes, 7 Hickling Broad, 9 Holkham NNR, Hoveton Park, Kelling WM, Marlingford Mere, 10 Mid-Yare RSPB, Morningthorpe GP, Narborough, Pensthorpe, Pentney Heath, Reedham, Salthouse, 5 Stanford TA, 2 Stanford Water, 2 Stoke Ferry, 2 Swanton Morley GP, Thornham FM, 10 Welney, Whitlingham CP, Wretton. Recorded in 9 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

BEWICK'S SWAN (Tundra Swan) *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

Common winter visitor, most wintering on the Ouse Washes. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 200. WeBS threshold for national importance 81.

Counts at Welney WWT:

Jan 4th	*Jan 18th*	*Feb 2nd*	*Feb 23rd*	*Oct 26th*	*Nov 15th*	*Dec 6th*	*Dec 20th*
35	2311	2244	2068	198	1054	1470	300

Counts at Ouse Washes (Norfolk):

Jan 20th	*Feb 2nd*	*Feb 23rd*	*Nov 15th*	*Dec 21st*
1650	2244	2288	172	1000

Peak counts in Broads: *Jan* 240 Catfield, 228 Ludham; *Feb* 250 Ludham, 150 Horning (including 20 juvs), 112 Sutton Hall; *Dec* 151 Ranworth Broad.

Reports of birds moving north and east in late winter: *Feb* 20 Swanton Novers 15th, 19 Cantley 20th, 50 Cranwick 20th, 94 Hempnall 20th, 57 Norwich 20th, 150 Strumpshaw 20th, 200 Watton 20th, 200 Wicklewood 20th, 64 Wymondham 20th, 32 Mundesley 27th; *March* 80 Barnham Broom 1st, 131 Breydon Water 1st and 12th, 76 Chedgrave Marshes 1st, 350 Hethersett 1st, 70 Horsford 1st, 350 Wymondham 1st, 21 Waxham 11th, 20 Yarmouth 11th, 55 Horsford 12th, 53 Necton 12th, 42 Yarmouth 13th.

Earliest reported arrivals: *Oct* 5 Breydon 17th, 5 Burgh Castle 17th, 4 Burgh Common 22nd, 198 Welney 26th, 2 Titchwell 28th; *Nov* 6 west Sheringham 8th, single north Snettisham 13th, 58 southwest Burnham Deepdale 15th, 30 southwest Choseley15th, 36 Scolt Head 15th (resting on island).

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Birds from the Icelandic population fairly common winter visitors, most wintering on the Ouse Washes. Birds from the Scandinavian and Russian population may also occur. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 210. WeBS threshold for national importance 57.

Peak counts at Welney WWT:

Jan 18th	*Feb 2nd*	*Mar 15th*	*Apr 5th*	*Jun 21st*	*Sep 28th*	*Oct 26th*	*Nov 15th*	*Dec 20th*
1218	1177	42	120	8	16	1148	2729	2600

Peak counts at Ouse Washes (Norfolk):

Jan 5th	*Feb 22nd*	*Mar 15th*	*Nov 15th*	*Dec 21st*
2875	1303	446	288	1000

Peak counts in Broads: *Jan* 18 Catfield, 26 Ludham; *Feb* 16 Ludham, 10 Horning, 20 Winterton.

Peak counts away from Broads/Fens: 20 Admiralty Point (Terrington) March 6th and 20th, 480 in mixed flock Whooper/Bewick's Wissington BF Dec 28th-30th.

Latest in spring: 50 Outwell April 10th, Blakeney 14th, Pentney GP 16th, last 8 Welney June 21st.

Earliest in autumn: 5 Welney Sept 21st then 4 Holme Oct 18th, 2 southwest West Walton 19th, 2 west inland Holkham 21st, 10 Snettisham 21st, 25 west Burnham Deepdale 25th, 2 east Burnham Overy Dunes 28th, single west Titchwell 28th, 6 north Burgh Common 31st. In Nov juv Cley 1st, 4 southwest Ongar Hill 3rd then numerous reports of 1-25 birds heading west and southwest from north and east coasts until Dec 5th. 18 Breydon Dec 27th were notable.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

Nominate Scandinavian form (Taiga Bean Goose) a scarce winter visitor to the Yare Valley. Siberian form *rossicus* (Tundra Bean Goose) a very scarce winter visitor. Red List (*fabalis*) and Amber List (*rossicus*). WeBS threshold for national importance 4 (*fabalis*) and 1 (*rossicus*).

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser* (*fabalis*) *fabalis*

Numbers in the Yare Valley poor during the first winter period, with up to 91 Jan, 98 Feb and in March 30 2nd, 19 6th and last 5 13th. First returning birds here 15 Nov 12th, 60 next day with similar numbers until early Dec when another influx of birds with 106 4th, 111 14th and 126 19th.

Only record away from core area one Wells Feb 15th/16th, presumed same Holkham at least March 8th-15th (JRMcC *et al.*).

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser* (*fabalis*) *rossicus*

Close scrutiny of wintering Pink-footed Goose flocks in the first winter period revealed as many as 50 present, though some movement between sites is likely and the true total may have been higher or lower. In the northwest of the county up to 3 Jan and 13 Feb, including 3 Holkham GM Jan 19th, 9 Choseley and 4 Holkham Feb 14th, 9 Titchwell Feb 21st and 1-2 Brancaster, Docking, Ringstead, Stanhoe and Stiffkey. During March up to 3 Burnham Norton/Burnham Deepdale 1st-15th with 2 Ken Hill Marshes March 6th and one Holkham March 8th-11th. Elsewhere, one in Overstrand/Sidestrand area Jan 24th-Feb 2nd, one Wissington BF Feb 17th and one Welney Jan-March.

In the Yare Valley up to 20 Berney Jan 3rd with 10 there Feb 10th and 34 March 7th and in Broadland 9 Antingham Jan 23rd, 9 Chedgrave Marshes Jan 17th with 10 there Feb 20th and 10 March 1st, 2 Martham Feb 1st and up to 7 Rollesby Feb 1st-10th.

Very few in second winter period, the only records being Burnham Deepdale Dec 8th, Choseley Nov 20th, Hockwold Washes Nov 26th, Titchwell Nov 30th and 4 Welney Nov 22nd-Dec 31st.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Birds from the Iceland and east Greenland population abundant winter visitors in internationally important numbers. Occasional birds from the Spitsbergen population also occur. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 2700. WeBS threshold for national importance 2400.

Main winter area northwest/north Norfolk, Broads, Breydon/Berney with smaller numbers using the Yare Valley. Co-ordinated roost counts were again carried out and were the most effective way of monitoring numbers.

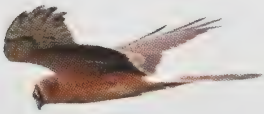
First winter period roost counts:

	Jan 8th	*Jan 19th*	*Jan 25th*
Snettisham	-	25000	26780
Holme	0	0	1590
Scolt Head	2330	2200	2520
Burnham Norton	627	500	350
Holkham	3760	7630	12690
Wells	9520	17295	1850
Berney	-	-	5050
Total	**16237**	**52625**	**50830**

Second winter period roost counts:

	Oct 11th	*Nov 8th*	*Dec 6th*	*Dec 15th*	*Dec 27th*
Snettisham	4150	16795	20860	24750	12940
Thornham	0	1400	-	6500	-
Scolt Head	0	2500	18500	4500	13400
Burnham Norton	490	391	2989	2330	0
Holkham GM	1900	9356	15763	12000	2020
Wells	0	14850	15000	20000	40117
Horsey	5260	2430	5125	-	-
Berney	2700	5800	9000	3000	146
Total	**14500**	**53522**	**87237**	**73080**	**68623**

Counts in the first winter period were hampered by fog, peak count in second winter period as usual during Dec when peak count 10000 higher than last year.



Top; Northern Harrier at Thornham. *(left; Julian Bhalerao, right; Steve Gantlett)*
Middle left; Montagu's Harrier. A recently fledged juvenile in North Norfolk. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle right; Pallid Harrier. This juvenile was at Holme. *(Jim Almond)*
Bottom left; Sparrowhawk in a North Walsham garden. *(Bob Cobbold)*
Bottom right; An obliging Kestrel at Winterton. *(Bob Cobbold)*

Top; Four of the five Black-winged Stilts at Titchwell. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle left; A Red Knot at Snettisham. *(Brian Beckett)*
Middle right; Pectoral Sandpiper at Holme. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Bottom left; Red-necked and Grey Phalaropes at Kelling Water Meadows. *(Steve Gantlett)*
Bottom right; Ruddy Turnstone. *(Andrew Bloomfield)*

Top; Sanderling. *(Neil Bowman)*
Bottom; Jack Snipe. *(Neil Bowman)*

Top left; Herring Gull. *(Bob Cobbold)*
Top right; Glaucous Gull at Sheringham. *(Julian Thomas)*
Middle left; Kittiwake. *(Julian Thomas)*
Middle right; Long-tailed Skua at Gorleston. *(J. Gaskell)*
Bottom; Wryneck. *(Neil Bowman)*

Additional roost counts: 7500 Berney Jan 5th, 26780 Snettisham 12th, 30000 Scolt Head 13th, 2100 Thornham Feb 1st, 30000 Snettisham 2nd, 15000 Scolt Head 3rd, 12000 Berney 21st, 8400 Berney March 1st, 15000 Burnham Norton Sept 27th, 4000 Scolt Head 28th and 20000 Thornham Point Dec 28th.

Largest feeding flocks: *Jan* 80000 Holkham GM, 2000 Breydon/Berney, 10700 Burnham Norton, 10000 Brancaster, 6000 Burnham Thorpe, 4500 Holme, 3000 Haddiscoe, 2250 Ludham Bridge, 2000 Flitcham; *Feb* 4000 Stanhoe; *Oct* 5000 Paston; *Nov* 8000 North Wootton Marsh, 5000 Brancaster Thompson Farms and Dersingham; *Dec* 6000 Sea Palling and 2500 East Ruston.

Records away from core areas and normal inter-site flightlines mostly over-flying flocks, especially during foggy conditions, best counts 300 Sparham Jan 8th, 1150 Rollesby Feb 2nd, 100 Foulsham 14th, 50 north Bawdeswell March 14th, 250 Old Catton Park, 200 north Hindolveston, 160 northwest Lenwade and 400 North Elmham Oct 13th, 1500 Hoe, 400 west Old Catton and 270 west New Costessey 17th, 150 West Walton 24th, 160 west New Costessey Nov 7th, 450 Hoe 21st, 150 northwest Norwich Dec 8th, 100 northeast Coltishall and 157 Hindolveston 12th, 300 Costessey 18th and 300 southwest Norwich 30th.

Most had departed by mid-Feb, but reasonable numbers lingered at several sites well into the spring, when in March 1950 Snettisham, 1500 Holme, 1000 Chedgrave Marshes and 525 Holkham and in April up to 96 Breydon/Berney, 3000 Snettisham, 200 Holme, 250 Holkham, 225 Scolt Head, 210 Horsey and 200 Burnham Norton. Late birds in May 275 Holme and 250 Burnham Norton 1st, 100 Holme 3rd, 450 Snettisham 5th, 75 Holme 10th, 8 Holme 12th, 4 Holkham GM 18th, 160 east Holme 23rd and last 25 north out to sea Scolt Head 28th.

During the summer 1-2 mostly injured birds Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy, Cley, Flitcham and Holkham.

First returning migrants to north coast early Sept when 4 in off the sea Holme, 9 Titchwell and 6 east Brancaster 4th, 3 east Holme and Scolt Head 5th, 17 east Scolt Head 7th and 37 south Holme 12th. By mid-month up 700 present Holkham 16th and 15000 in the area by the month end. Slightly later to arrive in east of county where 6 in off the sea Hopton Sept 15th, 800 Waxham, 40 Breydon/Berney and 50 over Filby Broad 18th, with 2000 in the Broads by end of month.

In both winter periods at least one leucistic bird present on the north coast.

CORRECTIONS: Count for Dec 2009 for Breydon/Berney should read 12190 and roost count for Jan 19th 2009 should read 9500.

Pink-footed Geese (*James McCallum*)

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (Greater White-fronted Goose) *Anser albifrons*

Nominate Siberian form (Eurasian or Russian White-fronted Goose) a fairly common winter visitor. Greenland form *flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose) a very scarce winter visitor. Red List (both forms). WeBS threshold for national importance 58 (*albifrons*).

Eurasian or Russian White-fronted Goose *Anser* (*albifrons*) *albifrons*

Peak counts at traditional wintering localities:

	Jan	*Feb*	*March*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holkham GM	203	337	180	9	250
Hickling/Heigham Holmes	300	350	-	-	230
Buckenham/Cantley	170	102	25	67	120
Breydon/Berney	33	28	27	5	153

Additional birds elsewhere: *Jan* 35 west Gorleston 18th, 3 Holme 23rd, 14 south Winterton 24th, 35 Reedham 26th, 10 west Blakeney Hbr with Pink-feet 30th, 12 Winterton 31st; *Feb* 6 Cley 1st, 4 Halvergate 4th, 14 Ken Hill 10th, 20 Snettisham 14th-16th, 4 Pentney GP 15th-20th, 200 Thorpe Marshes Haddiscoe 19th, 5 Blakeney GM 22nd-25th, 7 Heacham 24th and 1-2 Barton Broad, Brancaster, Choseley, Docking and Haddiscoe.

Very few after mid-March when 25 Buckenham/Cantley 19th, one Pentney 22nd, 2 Cley 23rd, one Ken Hill Marshes 23rd, 3 Ouse Washes (Norfolk) 25th and singles of uncertain origin Pentney GP April 3rd and Nar Valley Fisheries 11th.

Only summer record one with Greylags Cley Aug 9th-24th.

First returning migrants Oct when 9 Cley and 5 east Muckleburgh 9th, 13 Burnham Norton and one Buckenham 10th, 5 Blakeney GM and one Snettisham 11th and 25 Blakeney GM 12th. Highest counts during rest of Oct 20 Stiffkey 14th-25th, 5 Buckenham 14th where 20 by end of the month.

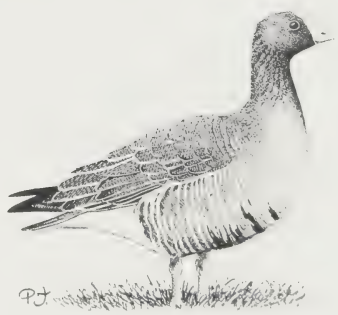
Also in Nov 18 east Aylmerton 16th, 4 Halvergate 18th, 27 east Mundesley 17th, 7 Waxham 17th and 30 over Wells 14th. Few elsewhere in first half of Dec when 18 east River Tud Valley New Costessey 1st, one Cley 5th-7th, 20 Yarmouth 6th, 3 Holme 11th, 10 East Ruston 12th and 5 Blakeney and Stiffkey 19th. With plummeting temperatures and heavy snow in second half of Dec there was a cold-weather influx to the county when, away from tabulated sites, 30 east Cley and 5 Northrepps 20th, 40 west Weybourne and 20 east West Runton 21st, 5 Sidestrand 27th, 2 Sea Palling 28th, 18 Holme, 52 over in 3 flocks Titchwell and 2 southeast Hempstead 30th.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** 2 flew high towards the sea Berney April 25th 2009.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*

Very rare vagrant.

Adult with Taiga Bean Geese Buckenham and Cantley Marshes Dec 13th to year end. (BL *et al.*).



Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Phil Jones*)

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Nominate form a common naturalised resident. Wild birds from the Icelandic population may also occur. Birds of unknown origin showing characters of the Russian form *rubirostris* (Eastern Greylag Goose) noted on a few occasions. Amber List (nominate).

Highest counts at most regularly counted and important sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	809	785	196	218	312	-	1243	1000	1026	1205	1225	1200
Holme	100	80	64	65	61	43	77	100	380	300	138	44
Titchwell	-	6	22	31	40	21	-	90	-	-	140	190
Burnham Norton	193	157	154	91	168	191	219	295	15	136	241	203
Holkham GM	644	162	224	353	-	242	378	190	113	347	280	233
Holkham Park Lake	11	122	19	16	34	13	-	84	24	26	11	58
Stiffkey Fen	289	308	301	102	-	-	-	490	400	340	212	201
Blakeney GM	5	40	50	49	59	42	35	-	-	65	117	-
Cley	200	28	152	210	229	122	199	654	283	202	-	44
Breydon/Berney	92	69	21	11	21	9	19	123	198	240	170	157
Barton Broad	350	-	103	-	43	140	-	-	167	-	145	-
Buckenham	-	10	105	-	-	-	341	500	355	700	-	135
Nar Valley Fisheries	-	-	-	-	88	339	288	-	-	-	-	-
Ranworth Broad	-	-	-	-	-	327	48	-	138	262	-	-

Additional counts over 200: *Jan* 340 Ouse Washes, 300 Claxton Marshes and Potter Heigham, 200 Flitcham; *Feb* 250 Strumpshaw Fen, 230 Claxton Marshes; *May* 317 Hickling Broad; *Aug* 200 Hardley Flood; *Sept* 395 Brundall, 318 Strumpshaw, 300 Thurne, 265 Thornham, 228 Gunton Park, 200 Hickling Broad; *Oct* 463 Welney, 225 Bittering; *Nov* 465 Foulden, 293 Welney; *Dec* 321 Potter Heigham, 299 Welney, 290 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 210 Pentney GP, 200 Claxton Marshes and 200 Methwold Fen.

Breeding pairs: 45 Cley (100 young fledged), 28 Mid-Yare RSPB, 25 Hickling Broad (at least 3 broods), 14 Holme (9 broods), 10 Pentney GP (63 young May 8th), 5 Horning (45 young seen), 5 Thurne, 3 Narborough and singles Berney, Buckenham Tofts, Roydon Common, Welney and Weybourne. Also 45 broods Holkham NNR, bred at Marlingford Mere where at least 70 young during June and several pairs Whitlingham. Recorded in 28 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Most birds in the county are assumed to be birds derived from feral stock, though the presence of a number of ringed and neck-collared birds during the year show that birds from much further afield also visit the county. In the first winter period up to 4 neck-collared birds Buckenham area Jan-Feb, all of which had been originally marked in Orkney, whilst one Stiffkey Jan-April had been ringed in Holland and during this time had returned there on at least one occasion. Also 2 other Dutch-collared birds Burnham Norton in May. In the second winter period 3 Orkney-ringed birds Belton in Dec which had been ringed as goslings here in 2010 and another bird Claxton from Dec 19th.

Small numbers with Pink-feet during the winter also considered possibly wild birds, with 5 east Mundesley with White-fronts Nov 17th and 1-2 Choseley, Horsey and Stanhoe.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

Nominate Canadian form (Lesser Snow Goose) a rare vagrant. Questionably valid north-east Canadian form *atlanticus* (Greater Snow Goose) has also been reported.

The white morph adult showing characters consistent with Lesser Snow Goose which spent the second winter period of 2009 in the northwest of the county remained to April 6th when it was last seen at Titchwell.

CANADA GOOSE (Greater Canada Goose) *Branta canadensis*

Nominate form a common naturalised resident. Birds showing characters close to the Nearctic forms *interior* (Todd's or Interior or Hudson Bay Canada Goose) and the questionably valid *parvipes* (Lesser or Intermediate Canada Goose) noted on several occasions.

Regularly counted at following sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	41	130	60	40	38	-	88	45	25	338	110	40
Holkham NNR	70	-	2	17	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Breydon/Berney	22	17	22	8	15	17	28	63	37	14	20	21
Burnham	70	57	52	56	36	49	30	120	-	98	95	69
Blakeney GM	45	24	26	6	25	-	10	-	34	62	31	30

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 150 Whitington, 150 Methwold Fens, 125 Claxton Marshes, 110 Blickling Park; *Feb* 130 Ken Hill Marsh, 89 Buckenham Marshes; *March* 40 Holme; *May* 58 Hanworth Hall; *June* 81 Titchwell, 66 Nar Valley Fisheries, 50 Swanton Morley; *July* 60 Whitlingham CP, 54 Titchwell; *Aug* 331 Wissington BF, 124 Gunton Park; *Sept* 180 Buckenham Marshes, 100 Holme; *Oct* 188 Buckenham Marshes, 180 Welney; *Nov* 617 Methwold, 127 Salthouse; *Dec* 450 Methwold, 200 Cantley Marshes, 150 Buckenham Marshes.

Only 2 late spring-early summer records of coastal movement this year, both from Scolt Head where 11 west May 29th and 60 in ternery June 2nd.

Breeding records received from Breydon/Berney, Cley, Hickling, Holme, Marlingford Mere, Mid-Yare RSPB, Welney and Whitlingham CP. Recorded in 6 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Birds from the Spitsbergen population scarce or very scarce passage migrants. Birds from the east Greenland and the Russian/Baltic populations scarce or very scarce winter visitors. Also a scarce but increasing naturalised resident. Amber List.

As usual, many records of 1-9 birds recorded amongst the flocks of Pink-feet in both winter periods. As these goose flocks are so mobile it makes any estimation of numbers an impossible task.

Away from the Pink-foot flocks the first winter period saw unusually high numbers along the north coast, particularly in the Holkham-Burnham Overy area. This arrival may well have involved wild rather than feral birds. It began with 80 west along Stiffkey beach Jan 23rd with 63 (probably same flock) at Holkham later in the day. Between 40-51 birds then present in coastal fields ranging between Burnham Overy Staithe and Holkham until early March when numbers dropped off dramatically.

Some signs of a small late spring passage noted along the coast with 10 east Salthouse May 19th, 3 northeast out to sea Breydon 22nd, 6 east Scolt 23rd and 1 east there June 13th.

Breeding data received from Holkham Park lake where 2 pairs nested and Hickling Broad where a family party noted early Aug.

As in first winter period, the last 2 months of the year saw larger numbers than normal along the north coast, perhaps involving cold weather immigration of wild birds. This time the main concentration occurred in the Holme-Burnham Overy area. The first birds were reported Nov 28th with 53 Ken Hill Marshes (which later flew south into the Wash) and 30 west past Thornham. In Dec 16 Burnham Overy Staithe 4th with 18 Burnham Deepdale 5th rising to 27 8th, 39 9th and 60 10th. 56 were again at Ken Hill Marshes 12th with 43 west Brancaster 15th and 40 there 18th, 28 Holme 16th rising to 50 between there and Thornham by 24th and 50 south Titchwell (reserve record) 20th.

Presumed feral birds noted during year with highest counts: *Jan* 35 Mid-Yare RSPB; *June* 30 Earsham; *July* 17 west Scolt Head; *Aug* 25 Hickling Broad; *Sept* 26 Marlingford Mere; *Nov* 24 Mid-Yare RSPB; *Dec* 35 Mid-Yare RSPB.

BRENT GOOSE (Brant Goose) *Branta bernicla*

Nominate west Siberian form (Dark-bellied Brent Goose) a common winter visitor. Birds from the east Siberian population of the form *nigricans* (Black Brant) very scarce winter visitors. Birds from the Spitsbergen, Franz Josef Land and north-east Greenland population of the form *hrota* (Pale-bellied Brent Goose) very scarce, sometimes scarce, passage migrants and winter visitors. Birds from the north-east Canadian population of *hrota* may also occur. Red List (nominate) and Amber List (*hrota*). WeBS threshold for international importance 2000 (nominate). WeBS threshold for national importance 981 (nominate).

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta* (*bernicla*) *bernicla*

Monthly peak counts at selected important sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Ousemouth/Lynn Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snettisham	150	273	30	510	155	115	-	180
Holme/Thornham Titchwell	371	550	230	200	129	406	290	300
Scolt/ Brancaster Hbr	1135	770	785	780	647	410	730	1220
Holkham/Wells	652	500	445	300	200	552	84	325
Stiffkey/ Cockthorpe	1500	1100	359	-	-	-	199	1000
Blakeney/Cley/ Salthouse	2800	1539	1350	2000	700	900	1200	1500

A co-ordinated roost count Jan 21st revealed a total of 5641 along the north coast with 2 Thornham, 371 Titchwell, 999 Brancaster Hbr, 564 Burnham Overy Hbr, 431 Wells Hbr, 474 Stiffkey and 2800 Blakeney Hbr.

Most birds departed by end of May leaving a handful of summering individuals June/July with 4 Scolt, 4 Blakeney Hbr area and 1 west Sheringham July 20th.

First returning birds 41 (including 25 west) Cley Sept 10th but no major arrivals until late Sept when 1185 west Cley, 60 west Sheringham 28th, 150 Burnham Deepdale, 526 west Cley and 110 west Sheringham 30th. Further movement noted Oct/Nov with 365 north Hopton Oct 16th, 418 west Sheringham 17th, 170 west Cley, 746 west Kelling, 77 west 66 south 55 north Gorleston, all Nov 7th, 120 west Weybourne, 119 west Sheringham and 230 south Gorleston, all 8th.

It would appear that Dark-bellied Brents had a fairly successful breeding season. Of 310 Holme Nov 1st 65 were juvs and at Scolt 10-15% of flocks comprised juvs. Two leucistic 'silver' juvs accompanied 2 adults Cley at least Oct 16th-21st.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta* (*bernicla*) *hrota*

During both winter periods 1-4 reported associating with Pink-feet flocks in both northwest and east of county.

Away from the flocks of Pink-feet some very high counts received as follows: 6 Cley Jan 12th with 13 there next day, 12 Walcott 14th with 9 there 16th and then a large flock of 44-46 birds took up temporary residence here for rest of month before moving to the Sea Palling area Feb 2nd-4th with max 47 present. During same period some impressive numbers recorded moving east past Sheringham with 24 Feb 6th, 25 9th, 7 10th, 54 12th, 45 13th and 60 15th. Most departed by late April but 1 Scolt Head May 1st-23rd (and possibly accounting for sightings at Titchwell 3rd-6th and 9th and Blakeney Point 26th).

An even larger influx occurred from mid-Dec coinciding with harsh winter weather across northwest Europe. Highest numbers at Breydon where 58 Dec 16th rising to 97 24th, 122 26th, 128 28th and an amazing 131 30th, an unprecedented number for the county. Along the north coast 13 Titchwell 16th rose to 18 next day (reserve record) and 21 Stiffkey-Binham area (including 10 juvs) 30th.

Black Brant *Branta* (*bernicla*) *nigricans*

During first winter period regularly recorded in Burnham Overy Staithe area intermittently Jan-Feb, Wells where 1 Jan-Feb and again March 9th and Stiffkey/Langham area where 1 on and off Jan-May 9th. Elsewhere: *Jan* 2 Titchwell 11th; *Feb* Snettisham 7th and 14th and Cley 20th/21st; *March* Hunstanton 6th, Ongar Hill 20th and Snettisham 21st; *April* Hunstanton 11th.

Rather fewer records in second winter period with first Stiffkey Nov 1st and Warham 21st/22nd. In Dec Snettisham 5th, Cley/Salthouse 24th-26th, Binham 27th and Snettisham 30th.

Up to 3 adult hybrid Black Brant x Dark-bellied Brent Geese frequented the Wells area Oct 21st to the year end with another adult in the Burnham Overy area Oct 11th to the year end.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Fairly common naturalised resident.

Highest counts during year: *Jan* 79 Horning, 30 Barton Broad, 27 Holkham NNR and 27 Potter Heigham; *Feb* 24 South Pickenham, 19 Gunton Park; *March* 35 South Pickenham, 17 Holkham NNR; *May* 33 Holkham NNR, 23 Hickling Broad; *June* 112 Berney/ Breydon, 41 Nar Valley Fisheries, 24 Burnham Norton; *July* 102 Breydon/Berney, 61 Nar Valley Fisheries; *Aug* 69 Nar Valley Fisheries, 60 Breydon/Berney, 49 Cley, 45 Salthouse; *Sept* 215 Buckenham Marshes, 192 Breydon/Berney, 38 Snettisham, 27 Titchwell (reserve record); *Oct* 183 Buckenham Marshes, 168 Pentney, 67 Breydon/Berney; *Nov* 74 Martham, 50 Catfield; *Dec* 43 Holkham NNR, 35 Thurlton Marsh.

Breeding records received from 33 sites (43 in 2009). Recorded in 13 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

***ADDITIONAL NOTE*:** the count of 252 at Breydon/Berney in Sept 2009 was perhaps the highest ever county total.

SHELDUCK (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna*

Common breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 3000. WeBS threshold for national importance 782.

Monthly peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Ouse Mouth, Terrington	722	-	198	-	129	-	356	133	-	216	-	-
Nth Wootton Marsh	-	-	70	50	120	700	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snettisham	121	1371	638	151	222	-	231	240	371	568	1030	-
Holme	31	57	58	28	52	19	16	25	6	87	57	98
Titchwell	30	97	97	51	97	44	36	26	12	5	125	45
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	220	220	325	165	204	123	82	25	12	115	202	340
Holkham NNR	8	62	123	156	157	139	50	21	6	3	14	2
Stiffkey Fen/SM	89	19	35	-	-	-	-	4	17	-	7	-
Blakeney Point	188	48	30	129	77	72	-	12	16	-	-	84
Blakeney Hbr/GM	454	267	197	188	99	117	30	16	16	22	111	486
Cley	77	69	99	57	62	41	24	32	65	79	77	110
Breydon/Berney	38	93	84	259	327	364	121	32	91	67	40	102

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 94 Warham SM, 53 Hanworth; *Feb* 75 Gunton Park, 51 Welney, 35 Castle Acre; *March* 59 Welney, 46 Ouse Washes, 44 Burnham Norton; *April* 107 Burnham Norton, 51 Hanworth, 50 Hardley Flood; *May* 50 Hanworth, 42 Northwold; *June* Wissington BF; *Aug* 25 Burnham Norton; *Dec* 145 Warham SM.

Breeding records (single broods unless otherwise stated): Blakeney Point (35 pairs), Breydon Berney (5 broods, 35 young fledged), Buckenham Marshes, Cantley BF (44 young), Cley (10 pairs + 35 young), Earsham GP (9 young), East Rudham, Great Ryburgh (7 young), Hickling Broad

(10 pairs), Holkham NNR (20 broods), Holme (17 pairs+3 broods), Mid-Yare RSPB (11 pairs), Northwold (2 broods), Pensthorpe (4 young), Scolt Head (30 pairs+ 8 broods), Stanford Water (7 pairs+ 2 broods), Welney (24 pairs), West Walton, Wissington BF (5-6 broods). Recorded in 12 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

In spring 165 east Scolt Head April 16th probably departing wintering birds. As in previous years high mid-summer numbers of presumed moulting birds present in the Wash and easterly movements along north coast to moulting area in Germany, high numbers reported past Scolt Head: 20 June 20th, 77 22nd, 30 26th, 362 27th, 67 28th, 113 July 4th, 80 8th, 92 9th, 110 10th, 104 13th and 55 16th, also 23 Mundesley 12th.

Apart from 22 north Gorleston Aug 30th, 65 west Scolt Head and 12 Kelling WM Sept 8th, very little indication of return movement until 2 north Hopton Oct 11th and considerable passage west Nov 7th when 35 north Caister, 276 Mundesley, 220 Cromer, 113 Kelling, 283 Cley and 123 Holme, also 15 Holme 8th and 165 Cley Dec 7th.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Very scarce naturalised resident

Counts from main site:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Felbrigg Park Lake	2	12	14	2	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	-

Elsewhere recorded from Barton Broad (May), Bintree Mill (March), Burnham Deepdale (June), Cley (March, Sept), Guist (2 March), Gunton Park (2 Feb, Aug), Hanworth (2 Jan, April, 4 Sept), Hardley Flood (Sept), Holme (June, July), King's Lynn (Jan, March, Nov), Martham (April), Pulham Market (2 April), Ormesby Broad (2 May), Santon Downham (March, 2 April), Sculthorpe (2 March), Sustead (March), Thetford (Jan, March, Nov and Dec), Thompson Water (Oct), Titchwell (Oct), Tottenhill GP (Dec), Weeting Heath (2 March), Whitlingham CP (March). No reports of confirmed breeding but pairs present in suitable habitat including a pair prospecting in dead trees at Santon Downham in April.

WIGEON (Eurasian Wigeon) *Anas penelope*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 15000. WeBS threshold for national importance 4060.

Monthly peak counts:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	964	1650	216	5	205	3015	2658	2500
Holme	1605	1000	1600	6	800	1250	1609	1700
Titchwell	151	56	-	1	215	75	407	700
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	285	400	1400	3	-	1702	2000	3655
Holkham NNR	1614	2863	1045	66	306	77	2000	4745
Burnham Norton	1213	945	861	59	28	187	703	1000
Stiffkey Fen/SM	243	263	504	-	53	50	250	-
Blakeney Hbr/GM	531	460	400	11	306	1344	368	534
Cley/Salthouse	296	1694	497	70	392	800	530	698
Ranworth Broad	1763	1653	455	-	-	39	580	200
Cantley/Buckenham	3000	3500	3000	400	-	-	1500	4000
Breydon/Berney	23770*	20200	14100	435	472	1270	9200	14850
Pentney GP	158	242	265	-	-	-	-	229
Ouse Washes	13189	11153	558	-	-	-	969	1300
Welney	7051	9343	4168	300	25	1821	5957	2015

* Site record

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 5000 Mid-Yare, 1000 Methwold Fens, 500 North Wootton Marshes, 340 Kelling WM; *Feb* 1800 Methwold Fens, 605 Ken Hill Marshes, 600 North Wootton Marshes; *March* 1280 Ken Hill Marshes, 300 Methwold; *Sept* 600 Blakeney Point; *Oct* 350 Wells Hbr, 187 Warham SM; *Nov* 278 Thornham Hbr, 300 Hardley Flood; *Dec* 1000 Warham SM, 256 Thornham Hbr.

Very few mid-winter or spring movements reported apart from 1003 west Mundesley Jan 8th. As in previous years over-summering birds (mainly males) present at several localities in June and July, max Burnham Norton (9), Cley (14), Holkham NNR (8), Holme (4), Kelling WM (2), Northwold (3), Snettisham (4) and Titchwell (4). One pair bred Welney fledging 7 young, pairs also present in summer Holkham NNR, Holme and Ken Hill Marshes. Mid-summer movement 8 west Holme June 29th.

First of autumn 6 west Holme Aug 13th, then passage fairly pronounced with highest counts (west along north coast and north on east coast) 10 Sheringham Aug 23rd, 29 Scolt Head 28th, 79 Holme, 90 Scolt Head, 30 Cromer, 121 Mundesley, 35 Gorleston and 27 Happisburgh, all 30th, 125 Scolt Head Sept 7th, 144 Holme, 279 Sheringham, 225 Cromer, 173 Mundesley 24th, 300 Mundesley 25th, 353 Cromer and 60 Gorleston 26th, 312 Sheringham 28th, 940 Cley 30th, 159 Mundesley Oct 4th and 147 16th, 73 Cromer also 16th, 35 Cley, 129 Kelling Hard, 135 Cromer and 30 Gorleston Nov 7th, 184 Cromer 9th, 178 Sheringham 26th and 161 (and 14 east) there 28th.

A leucistic female Buckenham Marshes April 19th may have been the same individual present in April 2009.

***CORRECTION*:** 2009 peak counts for Breydon/Berney should read as follows: Jan 19085, Feb 14109, Dec 14019.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

Rare vagrant.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Drake Welney Dec 5th-20th 2009 (per Recorder).

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 600. WeBS threshold for national importance 171.

Peak monthly counts at principal localities:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	233	172	16	12	-	-	-	-	-	14	43	28
Holme	23	67	67	35	56	42	9	24	11	30	361	90
Titchwell	14	46	34	17	43	230	33	53	3	50	3	5
Burnham Norton	34	30	50	50	47	61	52	93	25	45	15	15
Holkham NNR	70	4	36	81	95	101	16	34	45	20	15	4
Cley	88	15	48	54	46	114	17	13	8	40	26	74
Whitlingham GP	490	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	-	569
Ouse Washes	127	234	735	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welney	36	197	263	-	-	10	-	-	-	20	78	-

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 46 Lynford Lake, 68 Nar Valley Fisheries, 44 Sparham Pools; *Feb* 330 Geldeston, 90 Gunton Park, 250 Hoveton Park; *March* 112 Breydon/Berney, 100 Hoveton Park; *April* 44 Blakeney GM; *Aug* 229 Gunton Park; *Sept* 69 Cockshoot Broad, 50 Fowlmere, 341 Gunton Park, 135 Hanworth, 125 Strumpshaw Fen; *Oct* 50 Cockshoot Broad, 134 Gunton Park, 160 Nar Valley Fisheries, 70 Ranworth Broad, 60 Strumpshaw Fen; *Nov* 50 Hoveton Park, 40 Nar Valley Fisheries, 48 Ranworth Broad, 45 Sparham Pools; *Dec* 136 Breydon/Berney, 57 Holkham Park, 67 Horsey Mere, 100 Hoveton Park, 100 Ormesby Broad, 320 Wroxham Broad.

Confirmed breeding: Blakeney Point, Buckenham Marshes (2 pairs), Cantley BF (4 broods),

Cley (17 pairs, 23 young fledged), Earsham GP (6 young), Hickling Broad (brood), Holkham NNR (35 broods), Home (31 pairs, 4 broods), Mid-Yare RSPB (59 pairs), Scolt Head (7 pairs no broods, possibly all predated), Stanford (9 pairs), Welney (54 pairs), Westmere (5 pairs).

As in recent years light coastal passage mid-summer to early winter , all records given (west unless otherwise stated): 3 Scolt Head June 28th, 2 July 10th, 18 20th, 4 Sheringham and 3 Weybourne Aug 23rd, Scolt Head 27th, Cley 31st, 2 Sheringham Sept 23rd, 4 Cromer 26th, 23 Cley and 8 Sheringham 30th, 5 Sheringham Oct 2nd, 2 east Cley 3rd, 3 north Happisburgh 16th, Kelling Hard 27th, 12 Sheringham 29th and 29 there Nov 28th, 20 Mundesley 29th and 11 east Sheringham Dec 2nd.

TEAL (Eurasian Teal) *Anas crecca crecca*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor and very scarce breeder. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 5000. WeBS threshold for national importance 1920.
Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	580	595	41	7	44	645	1800	110
Holme	655	250	109	30	416	600	698	600
Titchwell	488	65	75	51	367	596	1200*	1000
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	780	214	336	-	347	304	1500	1056
Holkham NNR	796	118	247	233	121	131	371	327
Stiffkey Fen/SM	165	149	121	-	417	988	1210	19
Blakeney Hbr/GM	971	145	36	34	62	105	100	773
Cley	379	118	101	77	775	1382	477	746
Salthouse	79	100	57	49	72	86	81	36
Breydon/Berney	1219	1337	1183	470	275	490	861	1217
Hickling Broad	860	960	520	125	-	53	-	-
Ranworth/Cockshoot Broad	252	129	277	83	-	212	587	-
Cantley BF	-	620	-	-	-	1240	-	-
Buckenham Marshes	50	130	-	-	-	-	269	338
Welney	2010	421	765	500	300	670	1659	400

*Site record.

Other notable counts: *Jan* 240 Bittering, 600 Burnham Deepdale, 700 Hanworth, 410 Ouse Mouth, Terrington, 747 Ouse Washes, 1100 Strumpshaw Fen, 410 Mid-Yare RSPB; *Feb* 257 Gunton Park, 1500 Methwold Fens, 447 Ouse Washes, 800 Wissington BF; *March* 753 Ouse Washes; *Aug* 530 Burnham Deepdale, 208 Burnham Norton, 850 Cley, 308 Stiffkey Fen; *Sept* 340 Burnham Deepdale, 353 Burnham Norton; *Oct* 519 Burnham Norton, 234 Gunton Park, 250 Hanworth, 270 Strumpshaw Fen, 500 Wissington BF; *Nov* 266 Burnham Norton, 550 Horsey Mere, 312 Strumpshaw Fen, 200 Wissington BF; *Dec* 300 Hardley Flood, 600 Horsey Mere, 694 Tottenhill GP, 1000 Wisington BF.

Small numbers summered at several sites, pair bred Holme, also nested Berney, and at Welney pair raised 6 young.

First returning birds 1 west Mundesley May 25th, 20 Overstrand 31st and 11 west Scolt Head June 20th. Passage more continuous from mid-July with peaks end Aug-early Sept and late Sept. Peak counts (west along north coast and north along east coast unless otherwise stated): 39 Scolt Head July 20th, 53 Sheringham Aug 7th, 167 Kelling 13th, 1438 Sheringham 27th, 250 Holme, 863 Scolt Head, 1513 Mundesley and 400 Weybourne, all 28th, 269 Holme, 309 Cromer, 224 Overstrand and 110 Happisburgh 30th, 192 Cley and 147 Scolt Head 31st. In Sept 220 Sheringham 3rd and 127 Mundesley 7th, later in month 184 Mundesley 22nd, 100 Sheringham 23rd, 115 Kelling Hard 24th, 248 Cromer 26th, 1090 Cley and 749 Sheringham 30th.

Very small movements later in the year apart from 71 Kelling WM Nov 1st, 75 Holme 7th and 427 and 11 east Sheringham 28th.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

Rare vagrant.

Five records of single drakes: Welney Jan 18th, Holme Feb 9th and possibly same there April 21st. At Cley an eclipse plumage drake Oct 22nd-Nov 10th and possibly same Dec 7th.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 3520.

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	1055	338	161	135	144	-	230	144	469	710	545	276
Holme	113	95	65	36	65	60	31	50	20	107	97	13
Titchwell	34	92	43	43	49	60	69	49	29	31	68	58
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	199	109	124	42	38	30	36	110	267	256	197	141
Holkham NNR	727	129	222	126	243	228	136	96	210	193	235	332
Blakeney Hbr/GM	228	39	21	17	8	8	16	28	45	42	144	97
Cley	180	80	53	33	42	81	35	120	76	115	102	141
Barton Broad	250	-	118	43	36	51	117	47	92	41	37	-
Ranworth Broad	232	33	124	63	44	71	87	48	153	81	191	116
Ouse Washes	1775	978	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	49	28
Welney	865	940	493	-	65	42	-	-	-	212	621	926
Breydon/Berney	252	172	77	42	65	102	31	163	540	281	205	286

Other notable counts: *Jan* 114 Burnham Norton, 250 Hanworth, 270 Whitlingham GP; *Feb* 298 Gunton Park, 221 Nar Valley Fisheries; *May* 105 Burnham Norton; *July* 212 Burnham Norton, 113 Whitlingham GP; *Aug* 494 Burnham Norton, 200 Cantley BF, 225 Hardley Flood, 177 Nar Valley Fisheries, 118 Stiffkey Fen, 134 Strumpshaw Fen, 110 Terrington Marsh, 107 Whitlingham GP; *Sept* 151 Burnham Norton, 121 Gunton Park, 100 Hanworth, 470 Hardley Flood, 200 Saddlebow, King's Lynn, 147 Stiffkey Fen, 129 Whitlingham GP; *Oct* 270 Cantley BF, 192 Gunton Park, 103 Hanworth, 400+ Nar Valley Fisheries, 159 Stiffkey Fen; *Nov* 100 Hoveton Park, 300 Nar Valley Fisheries, 137 Stiffkey Fen, 140 Thetford, Nunnery Lakes; *Dec* 530 Gaywood River, King's Lynn, 314 Holkham Park, 400 Horsey Mere.

Confirmed breeding: Blakeney Point (2-3pairs + 10 young), Cantley BF (8 broods), Cley (33pairs, 48+ young fledged), Guist (brood), Harleston (brood), Holkham NNR (139 broods), Holme (48 pairs + 6 broods), Hoveton Park (4 pairs), Kelling WM (brood), Marlingford Mere (2 broods), Mid-Yare RSPB (175 pairs), Scolt Head (11 pairs, no broods), Welney (100 pairs). At Stalham ad with 14 newly hatched young Nov 20th. Recorded in 43 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Very small numbers in westerly autumn passage, all records given (west along north coast and north along east coast unless otherwise stated): Weybourne July 25th and 2 there Aug 28th, 10 Sheringham Sept 25th, 3 Gorleston and 2 Cromer Oct 16th, 7 Cromer Nov 7th, 5 Sheringham 9th, 5 Cromer and 11 Sheringham 26th, 12 south Gorleston 29th, 4 Cley Dec 7th and 10 Sheringham 10th.

PINTAIL (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta acuta*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 600. WeBS threshold for national importance 279.

Peak monthly counts at main localities:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	3	120	-	100	214	300	35
Titchwell	270	238	24	18	5	83	40
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	165	150	-	44	100	100	180
Holkham NNR	11	17	6	-	-	-	5
Stiffkey Fen/SM	-	26	26	12	48	12	-
Blakeney Hbr/Cley	232	45	-	32	111	120	90
Breydon/Berney	101	47	43	55	78	64	71
Welney	353	490	251	-	17	255	49

Very few recorded away from above sites, peaks elsewhere: *Jan* 182 Burnham Deepdale, 353 Ouse Washes; *Feb* 495 Ouse Washes, 36 Wells Hbr; *Oct* 14 Hardley Flood, 30 Salthouse, *Nov* 65 Hardley Flood; *Dec* 114 Hardley Flood, 250 Ongar Hill, 109 Tottenhill GP.

Single mid-winter movement, 5 east Sheringham Feb 14th and rapid decline in numbers towards end March and recorded at only 3 sites (max 4) in April. Between May-July recorded Cley (2), Hopton, Salthouse (3), Sheringham (3 west May 26th), Stanford TA and Titchwell (3).

First returning birds in autumn 3 west Sheringham Aug 4th and singles west Holme 8th and Cromer 16th. Considerable passage at end Aug and slightly smaller numbers towards end Sept and mid-Oct, (west along north coast and north along east coast): 11 Scolt Head and Cromer Aug 29th, 38 Holme, 131 Scolt Head, 14 Kelling WM, 32 Weybourne, 42 Sheringham, 37 Cromer, 14 Overstrand, 57 Mundesley and 19 Happisburgh 30th followed by 12 Scolt Head 31st and 22 there Sept 7th and 10 Gorleston 8th. At end Sept 7 Kelling Hard and 4 Sheringham 25th, 13 Sheringham and 4 Cromer 25th and 20 there 26th, also 30 Sheringham 30th. In mid-Oct 6 south Hopton 11th, 4 Cley, 2 Weybourne, 13 Cromer and 1 Gorleston 16th, thereafter 6 Holme, 6 Gorleston and 12 Cromer Nov 7th, 5 east Holme 9th and 18 west there Dec 7th.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First of the year a pair Hickling Rush Hills and single Ouse Washes March 7th followed by singles Cley 14th, Gillingham 15th, Hockwold Washes 17th-21st then 2 males to 23rd, also single males in flooded fields north of King's Lynn 17th, Buckenham Marshes 21st/22nd, Whitlingham GP 22nd, Titchwell 23rd, Hockwold Washes 26th, Strumpshaw Fen and Welney 30th. Recorded April/May from following localities (singles unless otherwise stated): Berney (pair), Breydon, Buckenham Marshes, Burnham Overy Staithe, Cley, Great Cressingham, Hickling Broad, Hickling Rush Hills, Hockwold Washes (3), Holme (2), Nar Valley Fisheries, Northwold, Strumpshaw Fen (2), Titchwell (2), Weeting Heath, Welney (5) and Yarmouth, Bure Park (2).

In breeding season pairs present Mid-Yare RSPB and Welney where 5 males together May 28th, also pair Titchwell June 12th-15th, eclipse male Cley July 1st-6th and 1-2 Berney on 5 dates in July. In Aug juv Cley 2nd and same or another 23rd, 29th/30th, eclipse drake(s) Titchwell 17th and Sept 12th. In late Aug singles west (accompanying Teal or Gadwall) Salthouse and Sheringham 23rd and Cley 29th. In Sept single Holme and 10 Stiffkey Fen 5th, 2 Hickling Rush Hills 16th, single Titchwell 18th, juv Cley 22nd, Hanworth 22nd and 4 Welney 23rd. In Oct and Nov single juvs Stiffkey Fen Oct 12th, 17th and Nov 3rd.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

Very rare vagrant.

Drake Cley June 7th (per Recorder).

SHOVELER (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 400. WeBS threshold for national importance 148.

Peak monthly counts at selected localities:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	48	60	38	37	13	12	10	50	50
Titchwell	28	83	18	38	16	70	121	78	14
Holkham NNR	15	14	95	68	10	7	7	47	3
Cley	32	23	55	26	7	21	68	89	39
Hickling Broad	67	-	35	34	-	-	74	-	-
Breydon/Berney	241	319	496	82	28	7	236	568	114
Cantley BF	-	-	-	12	110	-	280	-	-
Strumpshaw Fen	-	-	-	28	-	141	280	-	-
Welney	9	102	302	-	-	-	44	74	16

Notable counts from elsewhere: *Jan* 30 Hanworth, 40 Ranworth Broad, 35 Wissington BF, 40 Mid-Yare; *Feb* 257 Filby Broad, 107 Ouse Washes, 32 Stiffkey Fen; *March* 36 Burnham Overy GM, 36 Ouse Washes; *April* 45 Burnham Norton, 30 Stiffkey Fen; *May* 33 Holkham NNR; *Aug* 50 Hardley Flood; *Oct* 52 Gunton Park, 47 Ranworth Broad; *Nov* 130 Filby Broad, 30 Hanworth, 98 Ranworth Broad; *Dec* 200 Filby Broad, 38 Holkham Park, 158 Ormesby Little Broad, 32 Snettisham.

Spring passage: 4 south Hopton March 25th, 2 east Scolt Head April 7th, 3 west 8th, 28 east 17th and 7 west 21st.

Successful breeding reported: Blakeney Point (1 pair), Cantley BF (2 broods), Cley (5+pairs, 8 young fledged), Holkham NNR (6 broods), Holme (16 pairs, 3 broods), Thornham FM (2 females with young), Welney (55 pairs), Mid-Yare (39 pairs); summering birds and pairs present at several other localities.

Very light westerly autumn passage from July 20th (15 Scolt Head) to Nov 17th (Kelling Hard) mostly of up to 8 on 12 dates.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Very scarce, many probably escapes but wild birds from continental populations probably also occur.

One to 4 birds (2 males 2 females) Titchwell RSPB and Thornham FM March-June although no evidence of breeding. Four Sennowe Park May 15th possibly same. Single female Titchwell on a number of dates in July and Aug.

Other records: Earsham GP Jan 12th-17th, drake Sparham Pools March 16th and from mid-July to year-end varying numbers Ormesby Little Broad, max 12 Sept 9th. From mid-Oct to year end 2 drakes Whitlingham CP.

POCHARD (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*

Scarce breeder and fairly common winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 595.

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	36	40	36	5	9	9	30	50
Titchwell	28	17	18	2	-	-	-	-
Holkham Park Lake	1	14	3	4	2	4	3	28
Blakeney GM	-	3	5	10	-	-	-	-
Cley	1	2	15	10	-	3	1	1
Ormesby Little Broad	-	110	-	-	-	110	110	253
Ranworth Broad	31	150	-	-	-	-	38	-
Ouse Washes	1602	1629	58	-	-	-	-	-
Welney WWT	691	1492	446	-	-	-	235	303

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 115 Whitlingham CP 10th, 55 Barton Broad 17th, 50 Wroxham Broad 18th, 158 Pentney GP 30th; *Feb* 70 Barton Broad 9th, 150 Ranworth Broad 14th, 62 Morningthorpe GP 27th; *Oct* 72 Thorpe St. Andrew 18th; *Dec* 180 Ormesby and Filby Broads 18th.

Records of 43 pairs/broods in breeding season: Salthouse, 2 Berney, Breydon Water, 3 Cantley BF, 4 Cley, 20 Holkham NNR, 15 Mid-Yare RSPB, Titchwell, 5 Holme.

Coastal movements in second winter period: *Oct* 2 west Weybourne; *Nov* singles east Weybourne and Sheringham and 32 east Mundesley.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Rare vagrant.

The adult female present at various Broadland sites in 2008 and 2009 reappeared at Whitlingham CP Jan 29th where it remained until Feb 18th (JE *et al.*).

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Adult female (same as above) Wroxham Broad at least Nov 17th 2009 (AB).

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*

Rare vagrant.

The drake present at Barton Broad since Dec 21st 2009 remained to Jan 18th, visiting Wroxham Broad Jan 1st (PJW *et al.*).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Scarce breeder and fairly common winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 901.

Peak counts at selected sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	98	91	26	14	30	40	28	72
Holme	28	62	62	18	40	60	35	27
Holkham Park Lake	60	24	9	7	11	16	29	55
Ranworth Broad	143	124	26	26	-	123	91	-
Barton Broad	231	167	52	-	-	-	13	-
Cockshoot Broad	-	-	57	-	58	23	90	-
Whitlingham CP	510	68	-	34	-	133	-	-
Ouse Washes	1160	467	72	-	-	-	-	-
Welney	210	345	326			112	13	
Pentney GP	65	-	-	-	-	51	41	-
Nar Valley Fisheries	92	156	216	98	132	305	121	75

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 140 Wroxham Broad 1st, 100 Denver Sluice 10th, 100 Wiggenhall St. Peter 10th, 180 Wroxham Broad 18th; *Feb* 100 Pensthorpe 13th; *March* 140 Thorpe St. Andrew 26th;

Aug 156 Nar Valley Fisheries 8th; *Nov* 200 Filby Broad 14th, 120 Ormesby Little Broad 28th; *Dec* 115 Ormesby Broad 2nd, 200 Ormesby Little Broad 7th, 185 Saddlebow 15th, 100 Downham Market 26th.

Breeding records (pairs/broods): Cantley BF, 4 Cley, Gunton Park, 24 Holkham NNR, King's Lynn (site of old beet factory), Marlingford Mere, 7 Mid-Yare RSPB, Nar Valley Fisheries, Potter Heigham Marshes, 15 Welney, Westmere, 4 Wissington BF, 10 Holme, Pensthorpe, Rockland Broad. Blackborough End GP, Thurne.

Notable coastal movements: *Jan* 6 west Walcott 13th; *March* 3 west Kelling 25th; *May* 3 west Sheringham 10th, 4 west Scolt Head 15th, 4 west 16th, 5 west 20th; *Aug* 5 west Sheringham 7th, 4 west Scolt Head 23rd, 4 west Scolt Head 27th, 4 west Cromer 30th, 4 west Scolt Head 30th; *Sept* 3 west Scolt Head 8th, 4 west Cley 30th; *Oct* 3 west Kelling WM 1st, 5 west Sheringham 11th, 2 south Hopton 16th; *Nov* 3 east Sheringham 9th, 2 east 1 west Weybourne 9th, 3 east Sheringham 29th; *Dec* 1 west 6 east Sheringham 7th, 4 east Sheringham 23rd, 9 east Sheringham 24th.

SCAUP (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila marila*

Scarce winter visitor. Red List.

Peak counts:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Present at inland sites	12	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	11
Present at coastal sites	12	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	11
Clockwise movements	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	13	13
Anti-clockwise movements	2	-	1	2	-	-	1	4	9	1	22	43
Total	36	11	9	3	-	-	1	7	9	6	42	78

In first winter period up to 33 birds reported from 14 sites.

Summer records: *July* west Sheringham 3rd; *Aug* west Holme 5th, west Scolt Head and Holme 23rd, 3 east Mundesley 27th, west Scolt Head 28th, west Scolt Head 30th.

In autumn up to 5 reported from 3 sites. Anti-clockwise coastal movements involved up to 14 birds at 5 sites. 3 east Mundesley Aug 27th.

In second winter period up to 29 reported from 14 sites. Anti-clockwise movements involving 65 birds reported from 4 sites and clockwise movements involving 26 birds reported from 3 sites.

EIDER (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima mollissima*

Fairly common winter visitor, very scarce at other times. Red List.

Max counts at regularly visited sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	63	60	22	8	8	15	112	14	18	21	24	7
Titchwell	40	15	22	22	13	12	22	18	15	-	80	27
Brancaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	3	13	-	19	24
Scolt Head/ Brancaster Hbr	4	4	1	11	-	1	1	1	55	-	-	6
Blakeney Hbr/ Point	-	-	-	47	1	5		17	16	13	21	42
Cley	54	118	124	49	17	-	4	3	-	46	-	13

Notable counts elsewhere: *Jan* 66 Admiralty Point 3rd, 20 Hunstanton 23rd, 35 east Kelling and 59 east Sheringham 28th; *Feb* 30 Weybourne 14th; *March* 156 east Sheringham 1st; *April* 91 east Sheringham 23rd; *Sept* 30 Hunstanton 28th; *Oct* 178 west Mundesley 7th, 26 Winterton 16th, 71 west Sheringham 17th; *Nov* 87 west Sheringham 1st; *Dec* 115 west Cley 7th and 114 west Sheringham 23rd.

Eider (*John Geeson*)

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*

Very rare vagrant.

First-summer drake between Sheringham and West Runton July 27th (RM, JM, PJV *et al.*). This bird had been in Yorkshire for most of July and was then in Suffolk from mid-Sept to mid-Nov.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce winter visitor, mostly to north-west Norfolk. Green List.

In first winter period mainly reported Holme where peak counts Jan 21, Feb 25 and March 18. Other reports: *Jan* Cley 1st; Holkham Bay 31st; *Feb* 2 Holkham Bay 2nd, 10 Hunstanton 14th, Sea Palling 25th-27th. One to 7 Titchwell throughout period with last sighting May 20th. Only 2 movements reported: single east Sheringham Jan 9th, single west Mundesley April 22nd.

In second winter period mainly reported Holme and Titchwell. Peak counts: Holme Oct 3, Dec 15; Titchwell Oct 2, Nov 2, Dec 5. Also reported from: Scolt Head/Brancaster increasing from 1 Oct to 4 Dec, Burnham Overy Staithe single Nov/Dec, 2 Holkham Bay Dec 27th-30th, 2 Blakeney Hbr Nov/Dec and Cley Nov 7th-9th. Three inland reports: Pentney GP Oct 30th-Nov 1st; Blackborough End GP Nov 14th-26th and East Winch Nov 15th. Movements: *Oct* 2 Sheringham 20th; *Nov* west Sheringham 7th, west Mundesley 8th, east Weybourne and Sheringham 9th, east Sheringham 16th, west Sheringham 28th, east Sheringham 30th; *Dec* west Sheringham 23rd.

COMMON SCOTER (Black Scoter) *Melanitta nigra*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, fairly common in summer. Red List. WeBS threshold for national importance 500.

Max monthly counts at principal north coast sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Titchwell	2000	3600	3000	2000	1070	-	50	-	300	250	556	3500
Scolt Head	2000	3000	5000	2500	2000	-	341	946	-	400	650	1000
Holkham Bay	210	600	279	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	1400
Holme	3610	4000	2200	1650	1000	200	134	376	254	280	368	802

Other notable counts from the north coast in first winter period: 2000 Brancaster, 1000 Blakeney Point, 450 Thornham Hbr, 300 Hunstanton, 53 Cley and 10 Overstrand. Movements were sparse during the period but included 7 west 3 east Kelling Jan 21st, 6 west 3 east Kelling Feb 6th, 379 west 401 east Sheringham Feb 12th and 227 west 9 east there 14th, 10 west Blakeney Point March 7th, 25 east Overstrand March 13th, 20 west Kelling March 17th and 20 west Overstrand April 16th.

There was one spring inland record this year - a female Nar Valley Fisheries May 21st/22nd. Early May saw a small movement with 101 west Mundesley and 313 west Sheringham 1st.

In remainder of year coastal movements reported July-Nov, again the large majority north and west around the coast. The most notable (all west unless otherwise stated): *July* 524 Scolt Head 20th, 199 west 148 east Sheringham 20th, 115 south Hopton 23rd, 146 Mundesley 23rd and 224 Sheringham

23rd; *Aug* notable movement 13th when 595 Sheringham, 435 Scolt Head, 269 Kelling, 205 Mundesley and 105 Overstrand; *Sept* Little movement until 26th when 310 Cromer, then 580 Cromer 28th; *Oct* Lesser numbers recorded with the max being 190 Cley 31st; *Nov* 326 Cromer 7th, 1000 Cley 9th, 350 Sheringham 9th and 400 south Happisburgh 9th; *Dec* 250 Cley 7th, 250 offshore Happisburgh 9th and 110 Kelling 27th.

One inland record in the second winter period: juv Ranworth Broad Nov 14th-23rd.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Breydon July 4th-16th 2009.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, very scarce in summer. Amber List.

Max counts from principal sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Hunstanton	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Holme	3	4	1	-	4	5	-
Titchwell	8	18	36	9	3	9	8
Holkham Bay	-	1	1	-	3	1	3

During first winter period away from above sites: *Jan* 2 Cley 24th; *Feb* 2 Cley 9th and 20th; *March* 3 Cley 3rd; *April* 2 Cley 17th. Coastal movements noted as follows: *Jan* 3 west Sheringham 1st, east Stiffkey 1st, east Sheringham 17th, 3 east Sheringham 20th, west Sheringham 25th and 29th; *Feb* 2 west Sheringham 10th, west 11th and 4 west 12th; *March* 2 west Sheringham 1st. Small numbers into late spring with 3 Blakeney Point May 1st, 5 Titchwell May 2nd, with last of spring 3 west Mundesley May 9th.

No further records until late summer when 2 Winterton Aug 22nd-25th, 12 west Salthouse 28th and Holme 29th.

First returning birds 4 Holme Sept 22nd followed by a few north coast singles until month end. Early Oct saw a single south Hopton 1st, 3 west Mundesley 4th, then more steady passage of 1-5 birds predominantly west 10th-16th at several north coast sites with 8 Sheringham 16th being the max.

During second winter period 1-6 recorded from several north coast localities between Snettisham and Sheringham and presumed local movements of these birds noticed frequently. East coast records included max 10 Happisburgh Nov 8th, 6 Waxham Nov 9th, 2 west Mundesley Nov 26th and 2 east Mundesley 30th.

Only inland record a female/immature Filby Broad Oct 30th-Dec 2nd.

GOLDENEYE (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula clangula*

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Max monthly counts at selected localities:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	41	31	10	1	2	24	30
Titchwell	60	50	43	1	-	-	16
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	24	32	53	7	1	40	60
Tottenhill GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton Broad	70	55	12	-	-	21	-

Elsewhere in first winter period double-figure flocks recorded as follows: 26 Filby Broad, 25 Holme, 21 Ormesby Little Broad, 20 Pentney GP, 19 Nar Valley Fisheries, 17 Martham Broad, 15 Wiggenhall St. Peter RC, 14 Rollesby Broad and 10 Sennowe Park. Smaller numbers reported Blakeney Point (9), Blakeney Hbr (8), Cley (8), Burnham Overy Hbr (5), Ouse Washes (5), Horsey Mere (4), Cantley BF (3), King's Lynn old beet factory (3), Breydon (2), Costessey Pits (2), Gunton

Park (2), Holkham Bay (2), Wells Boating Lake (2), Welney (2) and Whitlingham CP (2) with singles at Burnham Deepdale Feb 21st, Holkham GM and Holkham Park lake Feb 7th, Pensthorpe Jan 31st, Sculthorpe Moor March 8th and Wroxham Broad Jan 1st and 14th. Last bird of the period Strumpshaw Fen April 25th.

Movements at sea included 3 west Weybourne Jan 2nd, 3 Kelling Jan 3rd, 8 west 3 east Sheringham Jan 3rd, 2 west Kelling and 4 east Sheringham Feb 3rd, 2 west Sheringham Feb 12th and east Sheringham April 11th. There was one summer record: 2 Cley July 16th.

Possible early return passage birds noted Filby Broad Sept 18th and Cley Sept 22nd. Main passage began Oct 10th with a single Scolt Head followed by daily counts of 1-5 at several coastal sites, largely moving west until month end. Larger numbers recorded west Nov 7th with 17 Mundesley, 14 Cley, 13 Cromer, 9 Gorleston and 9 Kelling. Nov 8th saw 12 Cley and 4 west 2 east Sheringham. After 5 west 3 east Sheringham Nov 9th passage dropped off considerably until 12 west Sheringham Nov 26th. Only notable movements in Dec were 4 west Cley 7th and 6 west Sheringham 10th.

In second winter period only double-figure counts away from sites detailed in table: 21 Holme, 13 Nar Valley Fisheries, 16 Blakeney Harbour, 14 Blakeney Point, 12 Ormesby Little Broad and 10 Alderfen Broad (where unusual). Smaller numbers were reported from Filby Broad (9), Cley (7), Saddlebow RC (5), Wroxham Broad (5), Wells Boating Lake (4), Breydon (3), Lynford Lakes (3), Rollesby Broad (3), Whitlingham CP (3), Costessey Pits (2), Lyng (2), Rockland Broad (2), Sparham GP (2) Thorpe Station Marshes (2) and singles at several other sites.

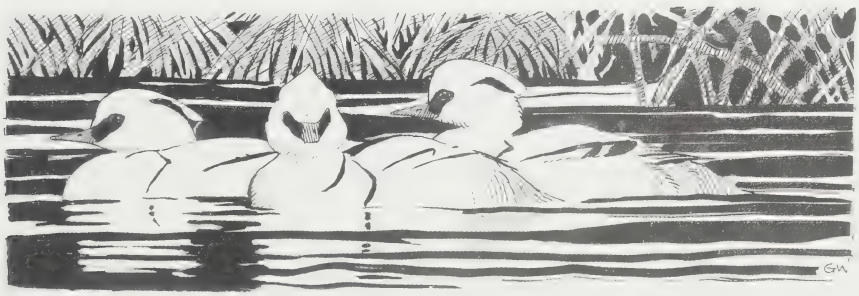
SMEW *Mergellus albellus*

Very scarce winter visitor. Amber List.

An excellent year with max counts from first winter period: *Jan* Sparham Pools 1st, 5 Barton Broad, west Weybourne 2nd, 3 Whitlingham CP, Wroxham Broad 3rd, Fakenham 5th, 3 Saddlebow 7th-10th, 3 Wiggenhall St. Germans 10th, 3 Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen RC 12th, 3 Burnham Deepdale 11th/12th, 3 Titchwell 13th-22nd, Hickling Broad 17th, 2 Ranworth Broad 17th, Rockland Broad 20th-22nd, 2 Welney 21st, Fakenham 23rd, 2 Martham Broad 24th-30th, Holme 26th, Nar Valley Fisheries 29th with 2 there 30th and Strumpshaw Fen 31st; *Feb* 2 Whitlingham CP 1st-23rd, Barton Broad 2nd, 2 Hickling Broad 2nd, 2 Martham Broad 2nd, Strumpshaw Fen 4th-27th with 2 22nd, Blickling Park Lake 9th-13th, 3 (max) Nar Valley Fisheries, Titchwell 8th, Pentney GP 14th, Ranworth Broad 14th, Cantley 15th, Welney 19th, 2 Filby Broad 21st and Holme 26th; *March* 2 Strumpshaw Fen 2nd with one remaining to 16th, Nar Valley Fisheries 5th-13th, 2 Filby Broad 9th with one there 10th, and last of the winter Cockshoot Broad 12th and 18th.

There were two unusual early autumn records, presumably involving the same bird: 'redhead' Lyng and Swanton Morley GP Sept 9th.

All records from the second winter period: *Nov* east Mundesley 8th, Titchwell 13th-15th, Blackborough End GP 14th, East Winch 14th, Strumpshaw Fen 20th, Blackborough End GP 27th, Cranwich GP 27th, and 2 Horsey Mere 30th; *Dec* 4 (max) Wiggenhall St. Germans, Breydon 3rd, Fakenham 3rd, Ormesby Little Broad 3rd, Snettisham 7th-11th, Lyng-Easthaugh GP 8th-13th, Saddlebow RC 19th, Whitlingham CP 20th, 2 Wells boating lake 25th-30th, Wormegay 25th, west Cley 30th, 2 Horsey Mere 30th, Ormesby Little Broad 31st and 2 Rollesby Broad 31st.



Smew (*Gary Wright*)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, very scarce in summer. Green List. WeBS threshold for national importance 98.

Max monthly counts at principal coastal localities:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	26	13	25	12	15	13	7
Titchwell	2	8	26	20	10	59	15
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	13	10	55	62	40	50	55
Blakeney Hbr	9	23	15	-	16	20	22

Other notable counts in first winter period: 17 Stiffkey Jan 31st, 13 Holkham Bay March 17th, 19 Thornham Hbr March 21st, 14 Blakeney Point April 1st and 9 Morston Feb 1st. 1-4 recorded from 11 other sites, predominantly in the north and west of the county. Again, no inland records.

Coastal passage in the period was minimal but included 7 east Holme Jan 21st, 4 west Sheringham March 14th, west Cley 18th, 6 west Holme 23rd, 2 south Heacham 26th, 2 west Weybourne April 2nd and west Sheringham 19th.

As usual, numbers dwindled markedly in May after counts on 1st of 30 Titchwell and 8 Scolt Head, and after a single Blakeney Point May 4th there were no further records until 2 Cley 31st. In summer period again small numbers of 1-3 birds at a few north coast sites although 7 Holme July 19th was notable. The first returning autumn bird north Hopton Aug 27th with singles west Sheringham and Holme 31st followed by smaller numbers to end Sept when 9 Holme and 15 Scolt Head 30th. Several sites recorded 1-3 birds in Oct with more notable numbers being 6 Holme 9th, 7 Holme 10th, 5 north Happisburgh 15th, 6 north Winterton 16th and 5 west 1 east Cromer 16th. In Nov an excellent movement 7th with 41 Cromer, 22 Holme, 12 Mundesley, 11 Cley and 5 north Waxham. The following day saw smaller numbers with 7 west Sheringham and 4 south Gorleston. 1-4 recorded moving west at several north coast sites until year end with 20 west 1 east Cley Dec 7th being exceptional.

The only double-figure flocks in the second winter period not included in the table as follows: 45 Snettisham CP Nov 20th and 18 Brancaster Dec 23rd. Smaller numbers recorded from 6 other sites.

GOOSANDER (Common Merganser) *Mergus merganser merganser*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Green List.

Max counts from favoured sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Nov*	*Dec*
UEA Broad	2	3	-	-	-
Thetford Nunnery Lakes	6	2	2	10	8
Denver Sluice	15	-	-	3	32

Max counts of over five birds at other sites in first winter period: Sparham Pools (19), Lyng (13), Wretton (11), Saddlebow (9), Wiggenhall St. Germans (14), Wissington BF (10), Whitington (9), Whitlingham CP (6) and Cranwich GP (6). Counts of 1-5 at numerous other, mostly inland, sites.

Coastal movements as follows: north Caister Jan 23rd, 2 west Titchwell Feb 2nd, 3 south Cley 12th, west Kelling 17th, west Mundesley 19th, 2 west Sheringham March 1st, 2 east Cley 2nd, east Cley 7th, 2 east Cley 12th, 3 east Walpole St. Peter 12th, west Kelling 15th, Overstrand 18th, west Holme 21st and west Scolt Head April 2nd.

Records dwindled sharply after early April with last bird of the period Nar Valley Fisheries April 24th. The only summer report was 6 west Titchwell July 19th. No reports of breeding received for 2010.

First autumn bird Sparham Pools Sept 9th with the first coastal bird west Holme July 27th. Main passage began Oct 22nd with 3 south Hunstanton, followed by north Mundesley, 2 west Sheringham and west Weybourne 24th. The next movement occurred Nov 7th with 19 west Mundesley and 1-3 moving west at several other coastal sites. Only 1-2 reported subsequently until 4 west Mundesley 21st. 1-3 occurred until month end although 7 west Sheringham 28th was notable. After 2 west Dec 2nd, the rest of the month saw only 3 records of scattered singles until 3 west Sheringham 26th.

Records in the second winter period away from sites in the table were again widespread, and further indicated an increase in wintering population, with 1-5 birds at numerous inland sites. Counts of over 5 birds: Downham Market (42), Wretton Cut (17), Eau Brink (7), Methwold Fens (7), Holme (6), Lenwade (6), Sparham Pools (6), Stoke Ferry (6) and Wissington BF (6).

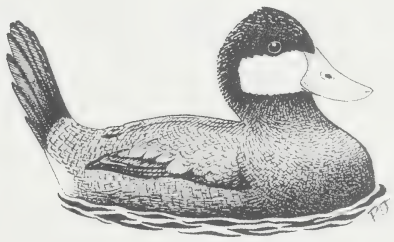
RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce and declining naturalised resident, currently the subject of an official national eradication programme.

Max monthly counts from principal sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	-	-	1	2	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
Stiffkey Fen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Titchwell	-	1	1	4	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Welney / Ouse Washes	6	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Away from sites in the table birds recorded at a further 10 sites: Barton Broad (1), Breydon Water (1), Holkham (2), Langley (1), Sennowe Park (1), Thornham FM (1), Whitlingham CP (1), Wissington (1), Wroxham Broad (1) and Yarmouth Bure Park (1). Pairs recorded Holme, Burnham Overy GM and Holkham NNR, with successful breeding at Burnham Overy GM (pair fledged 6 young) and Holkham, where one brood was raised. Breeding also reported from Holme, although success or otherwise is not known. In total only 3 pairs reported compared to 9 in 2009.



Ruddy Duck (*Phil Jones*)

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa rufa*

Very common naturalised resident.

High counts in first winter period: *Jan* 34 Hingham; *Feb* 30 Langley, 34 Martham, 48 Ringstead Courtyard Farm.

Breeding pairs: Blakeney Point, Hempnall, 31 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 7 Scolt Head, 2 Thornham Farms. Recorded in 51 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

High counts in second winter period: *Sept* 30 between Holt and Cley, 70 Langley, 100 North Wootton Marsh; *Oct* 30 Anmer, 34 East Rudham, 44 West Beckham, 50 Sustead, 38 Nar Valley Fisheries; *Nov* 98 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 32 Titchwell, 30 Cley, 36 Roydon Common; *Dec* 55 Ringstead Courtyard Farm.

Largest single covey of 30 between Holt and Cley Sept 1st presumed recent releases. Coveys of 22 Ringstead Courtyard Farm Nov 2nd and 24th.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix perdix*

Common resident. Red List.

Double-figure counts in first winter period: *Jan* 25 Wighton, 14 North Wootton Marsh, 10 Warham Greens, 10 Blakeney Point, 20 Gateley, 13 Holkham GM, 12 Flitcham, 15 Stanford TA, 11 Snettisham, 10 Happisburgh, 12 Holme BO, 11 Warham, 10 Houghton.

Breeding pairs: 3-5 Blakeney Point (25+ young fledged), 3 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 15 Holkham NNR, Hoveton Park, 2 North Creake, 17 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 2 Roydon Common, 7 Scolt Head, 2 Snettisham, Stanford TA, 24 Thornham Farms, 2 Warham, Swaffham, Burnham Market, North Tuddenham, Bressingham. Recorded in 8 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

High counts in second winter period: *Sept* 14 Gateley, 18 Fakenham, 17 Holkham GM, 20 Titchwell (reserve record), 39 Thetford Nunnery, 10 Blakeney Point; *Oct* 20 Anmer, 12 Gateley, 40 Thetford Nunnery, 10 Great Cressingham, 10 Blakeney Point, 44 Wells, 15 Burnham Overy Dunes, 17 Warham SM, 14 Colkirk, 27 Flitcham; *Nov* 20 Anmer, 14 Titchwell, 22 Warham SM, 27 Flitcham, 14 Holme, 20 Holkham, 12 Binham, 15 Great Walsingham, 14 Gressenhall, 16 Langham, 46 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 20 Titchwell.

QUAIL (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix coturnix*

Very scarce summer visitor in erratic numbers. Amber List.

First reports from Pentney March 24th, Ongar Hill April 19th and Scolt Head May 28th. Subsequent reports from Feltwell, Kelling WM, Titchwell, Northrepps, Gooderstone, Northwold Fen, Massingham Heath, 2 Gayton Thorpe, Grimston, Wolferton, Ken Hill Marsh, Burnham Market, Chedgrave Marshes, North Creake, Gorleston, Thornham Farms, Hockwold-cum-Wilton, Burnham Overy and Aylmerton. One in off the sea Mundesley Oct 8th was unusual. Last Sheringham BO Oct 17th.

PHEASANT (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

Abundant naturalised resident, most intraspecific hybrids resembling nominate or *torquatus* types but other forms including *tenebrosus* type birds also occur.

Hugely under-reported though breeding reported from Scolt Head where there were 31 territorial males, at least twice as many females and 6 broods. Recorded in 63 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

An albino Lynford Arboretum Feb 18th and a melanistic male Ringstead Courtyard Farm April 27th.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

Very scarce naturalised resident, though birds away from the Brecks and west Norfolk are recent releases. Some show characters perhaps indicative of inbreeding or even hybridisation with Lady Amherst's Pheasant.

Reports in first half of year (all males): 7 Wolferton, single Sculthorpe, 2 West Harling, single East Wretham, 3 Dersingham Bog, single Happisburgh, 2 Lynford. In latter half of year singles reported from West Harling (where a female found dead on road), Wereham and Sculthorpe.

RED-THROATED DIVER (Red-throated Loon) *Gavia stellata*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, very scarce in summer. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 49.

Recorded all months.

Monthly max (including birds in flight and on sea):

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Hunstanton-Scolt Head	15	14	15	1	-	-	-	1	19	9	27	11
Burnham Overy-Blakeney Hbr	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	6	-
Blakeney Point-Happisburgh	306	513	256	11	6	2	3	4	73	29	218	508
Eccles-Hopton	50	8	45	-	-	-	-	1	18	9	-	-

Three-figure counts frequent at start of year, with 221 Cley Jan 26th, 246 Feb 25th and 256 March 2nd, 169 west 22 east Sheringham Jan 17th, thereafter 276 east 22nd, 6 west 233 east 25th, 20 west 286 east 28th, 12 west 108 east Feb 1st, 513 east 5th, 148 west 28 east 12th, 154 west 66 east 14th, 8 west 273 east 15th, 17 west 467 east 16th and 418 west 2 east 27th. Elsewhere 100 west Mundesley Jan 8th, 251 east Jan 14th and 379 west Feb 25th and 200 Overstrand Feb 22nd. Last double-figure count of first winter period 11 Hopton April 2nd.

Birds reported throughout the year with first double-figure count of second winter period Sept 16th when single west 11 east Kelling and 2 west 13 east Sheringham.

In second winter period first three-figure count 101 east Sheringham Nov 15th followed by 79 west 61 east 28th, 134 west 42 east 29th, 2 west 116 east Dec 2nd, 18 west 137 east 16th, 215 west 293 east 21st, 11 west 166 east 24th, 23 west 146 east 26th and 5 west 304 east 28th, all Sheringham with 218 west Mundesley Nov 29th and 124 east Dec 27th.

Just 2 reports from the Wash: single Snettisham Jan 2nd and 5 Admiralty Point March 7th.

Inland records Stowbridge Jan 6th and Hickling Broad Jan 13th.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER (Black-throated Loon) *Gavia arctica arctica*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Scarce in first winter period, with majority of reports probably referring to 1-2 individuals: Holme Jan 17th, 23rd, 25th, Feb 1st, 7th, 2 9th, 10th and March 1st then singles 16th, April 4th and 18th/19th, with one of same probably accounting for singles Titchwell Jan 21st and March 4th. Elsewhere, Blakeney Point April 16th, Cley/Salthouse March 7th-9th and 16th, Sheringham Feb 3rd and 12th and Caister Jan 27th. Unusually, one in the Wash at Ousemouth March 30th.

First returning bird Blakeney Point Sept 15th, followed by a good showing in Oct: 2 Holme 12th and 31st with singles 13th, 25th-29th, Titchwell 30th/31st, Burnham Overy 15th, Cley 19th, 23rd, 25th, 2 Salthouse 24th, with presumably same 2 Cromer and one of same Sheringham and Kelling 28th, Sheringham 7th and 31st. Few thereafter: Cley Nov 8th, Weybourne 9th, Holme 28th/29th, 2 Dec 11th and single 21st, Sheringham Dec 4th and Titchwell Dec 25th.

Inland, a first-winter Swanton Morley GP Jan 30th-Feb 5th.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (Great Northern Loon) *Gavia immer*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Continued to be reported in good numbers following the influx of autumn 2009. Recorded regularly until March 25th (Salthouse) followed by 1 Mundesley May 10th and 2 west Sheringham May 16th.

Most records from the northwest of the county, where Hunstanton Jan 6th, 23rd/24th, 1-2 Holme on 23 dates Jan 1st-March 1st and 5 Jan 6th, Titchwell Jan 1st, 6th, 15th, 21st, Feb 2nd, 17th and March 6th with 2 Jan 4th, Brancaster Jan 7th, Blakeney Hbr Jan 3rd/4th, Cley Jan 1st, Feb 3rd and 9th and March 7th, 2 Salthouse March 5th then singles 9th, 12th, 16th, Kelling Jan 8th, 28th (also Sheringham) and 29th, Sheringham Feb 1st (3), 3rd, 9th, 12th, 16th, March 1st, 15th and 21st, 2 West Runton Feb 26th and Mundesley Jan 7th.

First returning bird Sheringham Aug 26th. In Sept reported Sheringham 7th (also Waxham), 19th and 25th (when also Holme and Titchwell) and Cromer 24th. Widespread in Oct and Nov but scarce by Dec: Hunstanton Nov 8th, Holme Nov 6th/7th, 14th, 18th, 28th, Dec 6th and 13th/14th, Titchwell Oct 25th, 27th, Nov 6th and 13th (2), Dec 27th and 30th, Brancaster Hbr Nov 24th and Dec 10th, Holkham Bay Nov 7th, 13th (2), 15th (2), 18th and Dec 16th, Blakeney Point Oct 16th and 29th, Cley 9 dates Oct 16th-Nov 16th, with 4 Nov 9th (also Sheringham), Kelling Nov 7th, Sheringham 12 dates Oct 13th-Dec 13th

with 2 Nov 20th and 4 Nov 9th (same as Cley), Cromer Nov 9th, Mundesley Nov 7th and 22nd (2) and Waxham Nov 10th. Away from north and east coasts, 2 Heacham Nov 21st and singles Breydon Oct 16th-Nov 5th with one, possibly same, Berney Nov 14th.

Inland: Trowse Jan 10th, Stokesby with Herringby Jan 20th, the 2009 bird still Whitlingham CP Jan 2nd-Feb 9th and River Great Ouse at Eau Brink Dec 18th/19th.

ALBATROSS SP. *Thalassarche sp.*
Very rare vagrant.
***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Adult Cley Oct 11th 1987 (PCB, MF, MR).

FULMAR (Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*
Scarce breeder and fairly common passage migrant. Northern 'blue' morph a rare visitor, mainly in winter. Amber List.
First report 30 east Sheringham Jan 1st. During the first winter period best counts 50 Hunstanton Jan 28th, 27 Holme 30th and 23 Cromer Feb 25th. Notable spring counts included 31 west Mundesley April 1st, 24 Cley April 19th and 7 east 17 west Scolt Head May 2nd.

During the breeding season 8 active nests noted Cromer to Sheringham and 2 Sheringham to Weybourne. At Hunstanton 148 active nests counted July 2nd.

In autumn, best movements 21 west 7 east Scolt Head Aug 13th and 3 east 54 west there 30th. During the second winter period, only 2 noteworthy counts: 119 east Sheringham Sept 24th and 21 Cley Nov 9th.

A very poor year for 'blue' morph birds with 1 east Mundesley May 2nd, 2 east Sheringham Nov 9th and 2 east Sheringham Nov 10th.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*
Very scarce passage migrant in autumn. Records are assumed to relate to the Atlantic form *borealis* though the Mediterranean form *diomedea* (Scopoli's Shearwater) could also occur and is generally not eliminated on typical views.
Three records: west Scolt Head Aug 13th (NML), east Sheringham Aug 29th (KBS *et al.*) and east Sheringham Nov 9th (KBS *et al.*).
***ADDITIONAL RECORDS*:** Waxham Sept 13th 2008 (TB) and 2 west Sheringham Sept 15th 2009 (KBS *et al.*).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*
Scarce passage migrant in autumn. Amber List.
First record Kelling when 1 west July 29th. In Aug best counts 4 Cley 13th, 2 east 2 west Scolt Head 29th and 12 west Scolt Head 30th.

Largest Sept counts: 9 Sheringham 17th, 14 east Sheringham, 18 Blakeney Point 24th, 12 west Mundesley, 16 Sheringham, 10 Cley 25th and 15 west Cromer, 16 Sheringham 26th. In Oct, 13 west Mundesley 16th and 3 west there 24th. Nov records included 10 east Mundesley and 13 Cley 9th, with last report 2 Titchwell 10th.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*
Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn. Amber List.
First report 1 east Sheringham April 20th. In May, highest counts 14 east Scolt Head 2nd and 58 east there 30th. Significant movements in June included 26 east Trimingham 9th, 21 Blakeney Point, 101 east 61 west Scolt Head and 39 Holme 19th. July best counts included 10 east Sheringham 1st, 18 Sheringham 4th, 16 south Trimingham, 34 east Sheringham 9th, 10 west 6 east Mundesley, 27 Trimingham, 18 east Kelling 13th and 140 east Sheringham and 51 Blakeney Point 22nd.

Notable Aug counts included 38 east 120 west Scolt Head 13th and 256 east Sheringham and 121 Blakeney Point 29th. In Sept best counts confined to latter half of month when 67 Sheringham,

70 Blakeney Point 24th and 42 west Holme 26th. Only 4 reports of 3 to 4 birds at 3 sites Winterton to Sheringham in Oct. Last record 3 west Cromer/Weybourne Nov 9th.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Very scarce, though increasing, passage migrant in autumn. Red List.

First reports July when singles Sheringham 8th and Blakeney Point 27th. In Aug, with the exception of single Blakeney Point 7th, confined to 3 dates in latter half of month: 2 east Mundesley, singles Kelling, Cley, Weybourne and 2 east Sheringham 27th, singles Sheringham and Blakeney Point 29th and 1 east Cley 31st. In Sept singles north Hopton and east Scolt Head 6th, east Sheringham 10th, 2 east Sheringham 17th, west Overstrand 19th and east Sheringham 21st. Only Oct record a single east Sheringham 16th. Best Nov counts included 11 Cley 9th - a site record - and 2 east Sheringham and Cley 10th.

WILSON'S PETREL (Wilson's Storm Petrel) *Oceanites oceanicus*

Very rare vagrant.

One west off Sheringham at approx. 0820 July 23rd was seen flying west past Cley about 45 minutes later (KBS, JRMcC, RGM, MAG *et al.*). This is the first record for Norfolk. See article for full details.

STORM PETREL (European Storm Petrel) *Hydrobates pelagicus pelagicus*

Very scarce passage migrant in autumn. Amber List.

West Sheringham Aug 30th (NM, NRR) and east Sheringham Nov 9th (AJLS *et al.*).

LEACH'S PETREL (Leach's Storm Petrel) *Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*

Scarce passage migrant in autumn. Amber List.

A poor year with first east Cley Sept 17th. Other Sept reports included 2 east Sheringham and Blakeney Point 24th, east Sheringham 25th and Salthouse 26th. Only 2 Oct records: west Holme 16th and east Cromer/Sheringham 24th. In Nov a single west Cley 7th and last report 2 east Sheringham 9th. ***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Six east Sheringham Sept 13th 2009.

GANNET (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus*

Common passage migrant, mostly in autumn. Amber List.

In first winter period best counts 10 south Winterton Feb 27th and 79 Hopton March 10th. Notable spring movements included 133 west 8 east Sheringham April 2nd, 13 west 79 east Sheringham April 11th, 58 Cley April 14th, 469 east Mundesley, 298 Sheringham, 170 east Cromer, 183 Blakeney Point May 2nd and 282 Cley May 25th.

Best June counts: 124 east Mundesley 8th, 137 east Mundesley 16th and 127 Holme and 390 east, 45 west Scolt Head May 19th. In July most notable counts included 302 east Mundesley, 10 west 299 east Kelling 23rd and 101 west 54 east Sheringham 30th. Aug peaks included 130 west 83 east Sheringham, 248 Holme 8th, 261 east Mundesley 9th, 102 west, 100 east Sheringham 14th, 350 west Sheringham, 173 Cley 17th, 335 east Mundesley 27th and 359 east Cromer 29th.

Sept peaks included 541 east Mundesley 15th, 363 Holme 18th, 2389 Sheringham, 2050 Blakeney Point 24th, 2100 east Sheringham 25th and 498 Holme 26th. Few counts Oct when best 305 east, 143 west Cromer 16th and 463 west 14 east Sheringham 29th. Only noteworthy counts end of year included 1006 east Mundesley Nov 9th and 361 east Mundesley Dec 1st.

CORMORANT (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo*

European and south-east British form *sinensis* (Continental Cormorant) a fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor and scarce breeder. Atlantic form *carbo* (Atlantic Cormorant) a scarce visitor. Amber List (both forms). WeBS threshold for national importance 230.

Monthly counts from roost sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Scolt/ Brancaster	23	27	37	44	49	81	57	92	63	-	-	-
Cley	13	11	60	68	7	-	88	48	61	41	17	10
Snettisham	33	22	25	7	-	24	83	74	70	92	80	25
Holkham	31	34	67	152	171	192	262	-	40	33	32	-
Ranworth Broad	297	264	629	-	12	-	-	34	117	154	187	531
Fritton	561	-	551	77	-	-	-	-	-	145	78	729

Other noteworthy counts included 90 Acle Jan 1st, 70 Whitlingham CP 5th, 116 Welney 18th, 155 Yarmouth 30th, 185 Upton Marshes Feb 14th and 260 Yarmouth April 1st. Max Aug counts 57 Holme and 101 Sheringham Aug 14th, 180 Scroby Sands Oct 5th and 40 Sparham Pools Dec 1st.

SHAG (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis*

Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn, and winter visitor. Amber List.

In first winter period, with exception of a single inland at Whitlingham CP Jan 2nd, recorded at 7 coastal sites Mundesley to Holme with 2 found dead Scolt Head in Feb. Summer records confined to 3 sites with singles Mundesley to Scolt Head. Best Sept counts 3 Thornham Harbour 12th, 2 Cley 19th and 2 west Mundesley 24th. Oct sightings confined to a single juv Sheringham throughout month. In Nov best counts 2 west Mundesley 7th, 3 all month Scolt Head, 6 juvs Weybourne 10th and 3 Mundesley 29th. In Dec just a single record of 3 Scolt Head/Thornham all month, presumed same as noted from Sept.

BITTERN (Eurasian Bittern) *Botaurus stellaris stellaris*

Scarce resident and winter visitor. Red List.

In first winter period singles recorded at 41 sites (18 more than same period in 2009) and no doubt reflective of the harsh weather conditions in Jan/Feb causing birds to feed in more open areas. Multiple counts received: *Jan* 4 Holme, 2 Titchwell and 2 Ormesby; *Feb* 5 Strumpshaw and 2 Titchwell; *March* 5 Strumpshaw, 2 Titchwell and 2 Martham.

Around 20 booming birds reported during breeding season, 13 of these from Broadland with 7 more along the north coast. This is a slight fall compared with 26 booming in 2009 and 25-29 in 2008 and may be indicative that the freezing winter weather had a detrimental effect on our breeding population.

In autumn and second winter period singles recorded from 27 locations. Multiple sightings included 2 Titchwell Sept with 3 there Oct and 2 Nov, 2 Strumpshaw Nov with 6 there Dec, 2 Ormesby and 1-2 Sparham also in Dec.

An unusual record from Cley Oct 5th involved a bird seen arriving in off the sea.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis ibis*

Very rare vagrant.

Welney Nov 15th (per Recorder).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

Fairly common and increasing resident. Amber List.

Monthly peaks at main sites and those most regularly counted:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	-	-	6	-	-	-	10	18	70	32	10	-
Holme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	25	-	-
Titchwell	10	-	-	-	-	5	-	11	-	-	-	-
Scolt/Brancaster	7	6	10		9	23	56	70	80	69	45	31
Holkham NNR	20	2	8	117	128	73	17	-	-	-	-	-
Wells Hbr	9	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	25	27	22	-
Warham Greens	12	15	18	23	11	-	-	18	18	53	21	-
Stiffkey Fen	30	2	-	-	-	-	-	37	63	84	-	48
Blakeney Hbr	-	26	4	6	-	10	21	20	74	29	38	10
Cley	5	-	5	7	-	-	18	-	11	27	-	-
Breydon/Berney	4	4	18	22	28	42	67	74	84	85	51	11
Welney	-	-	9	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Many other records received from sites all over the county, both coastal and inland. This species has spread so much that it is now possible to encounter this species anywhere in Norfolk and at any time of year.

A total of c76 pairs reported from 4 sites with 14, 60, 1 and 1+ respectively down on 2009 (101 pairs from 5 sites), no doubt wholly or partly due to the freezing conditions of Jan/Feb.

Coastal movement noted in all but first 3 months of year with 1 south Hunstanton April 22nd, west Scolt May 16th, west Kelling WM 20th, east Sheringham 29th, 7 southeast Kelling WM June 27th, east Sheringham July 2nd, east Sheringham and Mundesley 4th, west Sheringham 15th, 2 west Mundesley 18th, 2 west Sheringham 30th, west Scolt Head Aug 10th, west Beeston 12th, west Sheringham 19th, east Mundesley Sept 10th, north Waxham 18th, south Hunstanton 22nd, 5 south Hunstanton Oct 21st, south Hunstanton Nov 8th, east Kelling 17th, west Sheringham 26th and north Happisburgh Dec 4th.

GREAT WHITE EGRET (Great Egret) *Ardea alba alba*

Rare vagrant.

Three records: Thornham March 17th (PE, KH), Scolt Head April 24th (NML) and Strumpshaw Fen Sept 10th (per Recorder).

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Hockwold Washes Oct 15th-Dec 14th 2009 with 2 there Oct 28th, Nov 23rd and Dec 10th (SW).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea cinerea*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.

Largest concentrations during year: 48 Ouse Washes March 15th, 25 Holkham NNR April 19th, 15 Sennowe Park May 15th, 21 Holkham NNR 18th, 15 Holkham NNR June 15th, 9 Cley July 13th, 11 Blakeney Sept 22nd, 11 Titchwell 27th, 10 Welney Oct 25th.

Light spring passage recorded from a handful of coastal sites with total of 13 birds moving through April 2nd-May 30th.

Breeding pairs from BTO Heronries Census and other sources: 26 Burgh Castle, 15 Great Witchingham, 15 Hickling, 12 Holkham, 11 Scoulton Heath, 11 Barton Broad, 9 Quidenham/Eccles, 9 Earsham, 7 Snettisham, 6 Old Hunstanton, 6 Cley, 6 Upton Broad, 5 Mid-Yare RSPB, 5 Cockshoot Broad, 5 Great Melton, 3 Wolterton, 3 Ongar Hill, 3 Stanford TA, 2 Blakeney, 2 Ranworth, 1 Lenwade and 1 Mundesley (first breeding in TG23). A decline in numbers at some heronries indicates that harsh winter conditions took its toll on our resident breeding population. Recorded in

17 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.
A light autumn return passage noted from June to year end with main sites as follows:

	June	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	-	-	-	30	-	-	-
Scolt	15	15	3	23	-	-	-
Sheringham	-	1	3	19	2	1	-

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare vagrant.

Chedgrave Marshes Sept 14th (PJH, KI), Breydon Sept 21st (INS) and Welney Oct 24th-Nov 15th (per Recorder).

ADDITIONAL RECORD: Hopton Oct 4th 2009 (INS).

SPOONBILL (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*

Very scarce non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First record of year 3 Holme Jan 8th but then no further reports until singles Cley and Ormesby March 23rd followed by further March singles Burnham Norton 24th and Cley and Breydon/Berney 26th (till April 2nd).

Numbers increased as spring moved on with April records as follows: 2 west Cley 4th with 1 there 5th, west Kelling WM 4th, west Cley 11th, 2 Breydon 24th, 2 east Brancaster and 1 Breydon/Berney 25th (latter to May 9th), 2 Cley, 1 Salthouse, 1 Kelling and 1 Hickling, all 26th, 2 east Holkham 27th, 3 west Cley 28th with 1 there 29th when also 3 east Weybourne, 2 east Overstrand and 1 Hickling.

In May 2 Holkham 3rd with 1 5th, Cley 8th, northeast Horsey 10th, Cley 11th and 13th, Stiffkey 14th, Holme and Titchwell 15th, Burnham Overy Staithe area 20th-22nd, 1 drifting east inland at Lyng 22nd, West Runton 23rd, Hardley Flood 24th, 2 Hickling 26th, Blakeney and Salthouse 27th and Titchwell 29th.

Numbers increased further into June and July and headlines were made when it became apparent that Spoonbills had bred successfully at Holkham NNR with 6 pairs managing to fledge 10 young. Only time will tell if this is a one-off event or the beginning of a lasting colony.

In the same period numerous records of 1-2 from various coastal sites may have involved wanderers from Holkham or the continent but exact numbers impossible to ascertain due to the high mobility of birds between sites. Some larger gatherings noted away from colony were 12 Cley June 30th with 5 there July 1st and 11th, 5 Blakeney Point 14th, 10 Cley 17th with 13 there 20th/21st, 11 Blakeney Hbr 21st, 9 Cley 25th with 11 26th rising to 17 31st.

Good numbers remained in the Cley/Blakeney area throughout Aug peaking at 18 Blakeney Harbour 2nd and 21 Cley 7th and this group no doubt account for the 14 at Stiffkey Aug 31st. Into Sept max counts of 12 in Holme, Thornham and Titchwell area with 11 still in Stiffkey, Blakeney and Cley area.

Numbers slowly fell away in Oct with probably 6-10 accounting for all records and in Nov a single juv in Cley/Blakeney area remained until 5th and was seen at Titchwell 8th and 18th, Scolt and Morston 21st and then settled back into Blakeney Harbour area during Dec until it was last seen at Stiffkey on 26th.

Spoonbills (*Gary Wright*)

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 78.

Found throughout county with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	26	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	13	24	12
Holme	7	4	6	4	4	2	-	7	5	3	3	7
Titchwell	8	16	14	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	12	11
Holkham NNR	8	5	10	22	22	8	10	7	8	11	15	6
Cley-Salthouse	8	9	5	4	1	9	3	5	4	10	9	11
Ouse Washes	41	2	11	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holkham Park Lake	6	-	2	-	3	-	-	6	4	7	4	13
Wells Hbr	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	15	-

Other double-figure counts: 35 Whitlingham CP Feb 9th, 38 Fowlmere Aug 13th with 43 31st and 25 Sept 12th, 16 East Wretham Heath Aug 20th, 20 Wissington BF Aug 27th, 18 Bittering Sept 17th, 13 Hockwold Washes Oct 24th, 10 Burnham Overy Staithe Dec 15th and 12 Potter Heigham Dec 19th.

A total of 75 pairs reported breeding from 17 sites: Blackborough End GP, Bittering (4), Cley (5), Fowlmere, Holkham NNR (47), Holkham Park lake, Holme (2), King's Lynn BF, Mid-Yare RSPB (2), Morningthorpe GP, Pensthorpe, Swanton Morley GP, Syderstone Common, Tottington, West Tofts Mere, West Mere and Wissington BF (4).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.

Found throughout county in both coastal and inland waters with monthly max at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	16	8	10	6	9	-	-	-	8	19	16	12
Titchwell	3	-	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	30	-	-
Scolt Head/Brancaster	2	1	2	7	3	3	1	-	5	2	7	4
Ranworth Broad	-	-	13	27	23	22	28	22	19	13	-	-
Barton Broad	20	-	26	27	31	47	46	55	52	31	11	-
Rockland Broad	3	2	12	12	14	10	11	9	12	14	10	2
Welney	3	12	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Cley	9	19	30	8	-	-	-	2	2	5	7	12
Swanton Morley GP	15	-	8	6	-	8	-	-	6	8	-	-

Other double-figure counts: 30 Whitlingham CP Jan 3rd, 26 Jan 10th, 17th and 31st, 40 Feb 6th, 30 Feb 15th and 31 Feb 18th, 17 Breydon Feb 1st, 10 Nar Valley Fisheries April 17th, 12 June 26th, 16 July 4th and 12 Aug 22nd, 11 South Walsham July 17th, 23 Wroxham Broad Sept 6th and 35 Holkham Bay Dec 16th.

A total of 38 pairs reported breeding from 16 sites: Berney (3), Hickling, Hockwold Washes (3), Hoe, Horning (2), Lyng-Easthaugh GP (2), Mid-Yare RSPB (7), Nar Valley Fisheries (3), Pentney GP (2), Rockland, Sparham GP, Sparham Ponds (2), Swanton Morley (4), Thornham, UEA Broad (3) and Wissington BF (2).

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena grisegena*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 2.

As in 2009, scarce in the first winter period, being regular only off Titchwell, where singles Jan 7th and then March 20th-28th, 31st and then almost daily until May 6th when presumed same Brancaster until May 22nd. This individual may have accounted for reports Holme March 25th, April 4th and Scolt Head April 10th and 22nd. Elsewhere Hunstanton Feb 7th, Holkham Bay Jan 2nd, Feb 3rd and 7th, March 1st and April 6th, Cley Jan 1st, 6th, 7th and 2 Jan 30th and Sheringham Feb 15th, March 6th, 11th with 2 March 8th.

First returning bird Holme Aug 30th, with others there Sept 25th, Oct 18th, 25th, Nov 10th, 18th, 30th and 3 Dec 11th. Nearby Hunstanton Oct 26th and Titchwell Sept 9th and on 11 dates Oct 14th-Nov 13th with 2 Oct 28th and 30th, Holkham Bay Nov 1st, 13th, 15th, 19th and 4 Dec 16th, Wells Oct 31st, Blakeney Hbr Sept 18th, Oct 24th, Nov 1st (2), 3rd (2), 6th, 29th and Dec 5th (2), Blakeney Point Sept 26th and Oct 31st, Cley Sept 17th, Oct 24th, 30th, Nov 7th/8th, 9th (3) and Dec 7th, Weybourne Nov 9th (2) and 10th (3), Kelling Oct 18th, Sheringham Sept 19th, 24th, 25th, Oct 20th, 23rd, 27th, Nov 9th (2), 10th, 17th, 19th, Dec 11th, 23rd and 30th, West Runton Nov 9th, Cromer Sept 26th and Nov 9th, Trimingham Nov 7th, Mundesley Nov 7th, 17th and Dec 27th and Winterton Sept 23rd. A single Breydon Sept 22nd was unusual and just one report from the Wash off Snettisham Nov 13th.

Inland: Whitlingham CP Jan 17th-Feb 20th.

SLAVONIAN GREBE (Horned Grebe) *Podiceps auritus auritus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

In coastal waters, most numerous in northwest of county where singles Holme Jan 6th, 8th, 23rd/24th and 31st probably same as single throughout Jan Titchwell, where also Feb 2nd, 20th, 3 March 14th, 2 until 19th and single 20th and again April 1st-3rd. Elsewhere on north coast Holkham Bay Feb 7th, Cley Feb 4th, 2 Kelling Jan 13th and April 11th (last of the spring, also at Weybourne), Sheringham Jan 22nd, 25th and Feb 11th. Just single reports from the Wash at Snettisham Jan 20th and in east at Breydon Jan 26th.

First of autumn Holme Sept 26th with singles also there Oct 12th, 18th, 25th, Nov 3rd, 10th, 18th and Dec 11th presumed same as Titchwell Oct 14th, 25th-Nov 1st, 2 Oct 28th, 4 Nov 2nd then singles 11th-15th, Dec 11th and 30th. All other birds also on north coast, eastward to Mundesley: Burnham Overy Oct 15th, Holkham Bay Oct 25th, Nov 15th and 3 Nov 18th, Blakeney Hbr Nov 8th/9th and Blakeney Point Nov 26th, Cley Nov 16th and 2 Dec 7th, Weybourne Nov 9th, 2 Sheringham Oct 11th, 23rd, 29th, 2 Nov 9th, Dec 5th, 7th and 13th and 2 Mundesley Nov 9th.

Inland: Sparham Pools Jan 24th, Swanton Morley GP Feb 4th, Ormesby Little Broad Feb 20th-27th, 2 March 2nd-7th, 3 8th-13th, 4 14th then 1-3 until 21st and 1 24th. Single Filby Broad March 11th-18th presumed same as one of these. Whitlingham CP Jan 19th-27th and April 6th.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Breydon Dec 21st 2009.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 1.

A scattering of records involving 13 birds: Whitlingham CP Jan 1st/2nd, Blakeney Hbr Jan 17th, Titchwell April 4th and May 2nd (2), 2 Welney April 7th-9th, one remaining until 10th, Cromer and West Runton April 20th, Snettisham Aug 20th, Cantley BF Aug 21st, Stiffkey Fen Aug 26th-Sept 4th, Overstrand and Sidestrand Aug 28th, West Runton Oct 4th and Ormesby Broad Nov 2nd-4th and again Dec 2nd.

HONEY-BUZZARD (European Honey-buzzard) *Pernis apivorus*

Very scarce summer visitor and very scarce, occasionally scarce, passage migrant. Amber List.

First of year 2 east Strumpshaw April 24th and a single north Snettisham 28th - both very early dates. In May: southwest Ormesby St. Margaret 9th, 2 Repps-with-Bastwick 15th, west Aylmerton 17th, east Welney 20th and east Strumpshaw 22nd.

Recorded in breeding area from May 7th but for most of summer only 1 bird present and therefore it is highly unlikely that breeding took place. There were 2 present in area July 10th, 3 28th, 2 August 11th and 3 17th-19th.

An early autumn migrant Yarmouth July 29th followed by singles southwest Holt Aug 3rd, southwest Warham 22nd, west Burnham Deepdale 27th, west Holme and east Trimingham 31st, East Ruston Sept 1st, Weybourne 3rd, Cockley Cley 4th, Scarning 17th, a presumed migrant southeast over breeding area 22nd, south Holt 27th, Cley Oct 1st and Sheringham 10th.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

Nominate form (Western Black Kite) a rare vagrant. A bird showing characters of the Asian form *lineatus* (Black-eared Kite) has occurred on one occasion.

Welney May 14th (RNK, AM) and Warham and Wells May 17th (AIB).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus milvus*

Scarce passage migrant and newly-established breeder, increasing following reintroductions elsewhere in England. Amber List.

Numerous records received from all months of the year and from a wide spread of sites throughout the county. The status of the Red Kite in Norfolk has changed perhaps more dramatically than any other species over the past 10 years. Formerly an uncommon passage migrant, it can now also be described as a resident breeder.

A noticeable rise in numbers late March/April as the 'resident' population was swollen by an arrival of spring immigrants. During this period 1-4 reported from many sites but any analysis of numbers is impossible due to the sheer volume of records and the high mobility of individuals between sites.

As in 2009, breeding again took place, this year 3 confirmed pairs (2 of which were returning pairs from last year). A minimum of 7 young fledged (1, 2 and 4 respectively), 4 of which were ringed in the nest. Breeding may also have occurred at a fourth site.

MARSH HARRIER (Western Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*

Fairly common resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Increasingly common throughout the county. A minimum of 7 roost sites in use Jan-March, slightly down compared with previous few years i.e.10 in 2008 and 9 in 2009 but this may simply be a result of uneven coverage rather than a real decrease:

	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*Total*
Jan	14	60	34	8	6	5	5	132
Feb	14	-	-	-	-	30	-	44
Mar	-	20	-	-	-	13	-	33

Early spring migrants or local wanderers noted east Sheringham Jan 17th and Kelling Heath Feb 17th.

Main spring movement underway March 16th with 1 west Sheringham and Kelling followed by 1 in off the sea Hopton 17th and another there 20th, west Weybourne 17th, south Hunstanton 18th, south Heacham and northeast Welney 26th. In April 19 migrants passed Scolt Head and elsewhere 1 in off the sea Happisburgh 5th, east Blackborough End, west Paston and Weybourne 17th, south Hunstanton 20th, 2 west Salthouse 22nd, north Gorleston 24th and east Paston 30th. Movement continued in May with 8 through Scolt Head 1st-17th, south Hunstanton 1st, south Happisburgh 5th, 3 west Northrepps 11th, west Sheringham 13th, 3 west Northrepps 14th, west Paston 15th, 3 west Northrepps and 2 west Aylmerton 16th and east Paston 23rd.

As last year, breeding data incomplete with records received of 62 nests (69 in 2009) fledging a total of 65 young.

Late summer/autumn dispersal noted from July 18th at Scolt Head with 3 juvs west there during month. Elsewhere 1 west Happisburgh 20th and west Aylmerton 26th. In Aug 20 west through Scolt Head, 1 Felbrigg 14th, east Aylmerton 18th, 2 north Winterton Sept 18th, north Kelling Oct 13th, 2 west Cley 19th and 21st, west Sheringham 29th and far offshore past Weybourne 30th.

Late autumn/winter movement noted in Nov/Dec when 1 south Hunstanton Nov 3rd, west Sheringham 12th, west Kelling 14th, west Sheringham Dec 7th, west Northrepps 18th and Sheringham 26th.

As in first winter period a minimum of 7 roosts in last two months of the year

	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*Total*
Nov	25	13	33	5	15	23	5	119
Dec	-	11	-	-	-	15	-	26

HEN HARRIER (Northern Harrier) *Circus cyaneus*

Nominate Palearctic form a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Nearctic form (Northern Harrier or Marsh Hawk) a very rare vagrant. Red List (nominate).

Hen Harrier *Circus* (*cyaneus*) *cyaneus*

In first winter period a minimum of 6 roost sites used:

	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*Total*
Jan	2	6	5	3	3	5	24
Feb	3	7	4	-	2	-	16
Mar	2	4	4	1	-	-	11

Many records received during first winter period, mainly from north coast and Broadland areas involving birds hunting away from roost sites during the day.

Small-scale spring passage noted from April 3rd when 1 Itteringham followed by 1 west Mundesley 5th, in off the sea Holkham 6th and high west Scolt Head 10th. A few lingering birds in May: Kelling 10th, Dersingham 11th, Blakeney 15th, Breydon/Berney area 16th (until June 3rd), Barton Turf 23rd and Salthouse 27th. In June a female Bettenham 'mid-month'.

First returning bird Roydon Aug 29th followed by 1 Scolt Head Sept 12th and south Cley 16th. Numbers then gradually increased as autumn progressed.

In Oct-Dec minimum of 8 roost sites used:

	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*Total*
Oct	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Nov	5	4	3	3	3	3	4	-	25
Dec	5	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	10

Northern Harrier *Circus* (*cyaneus*) *hudsonius*

A first-winter male of the Nearctic form Burnham Overy Dunes Oct 27th (MAG, SJW *et al.*) remained to the year-end. Mostly it frequented the Thornham Harbour/Titchwell area but it also roamed widely along the north coast during its stay, being seen also at Blakeney Point, Brancaster, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy Staithe, Holme, Morston, Stiffkey and Wells East Hills. This constitutes the first county record and was undoubtedly one of the year's highlights - see article for full details.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

Very rare vagrant.

Juv Holme Oct 9th/10th (DN, SP, CDR *et al.*) was identified retrospectively from photographs. This is the sixth record for the county.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First Roydon April 18th then east Titchwell 22nd, Langham 26th, east Scolt 27th, west Cley 28th and Hickling, Horsey, Waxham and Winterton the same day. On 29th a dark morph bird flew east at Weybourne and a wing-tagged second-year female was in the Waxham/Winterton area. This bird was revealed to have been tagged as a chick at Villeneuve-Puy-Dome, France on July 18th 2008. It was still present next day when another wing-tagged bird flew west at Cley.

Passage continued in May with singles at Horsey, Winterton, Potter Heigham, Claxton and Strumpshaw 1st, Breydon 5th, west Scolt Head 11th and 18th, Titchwell 23rd, Salthouse 27th and Paston 30th.

Birds continued to be reported June-Aug but most if not all conceivably relate to wanderers from the breeding areas. This year 2 nests were located, both in arable crops and involving a single bigamous male. A total of 6 young fledged (4 and 2).

Birds dispersed rapidly after breeding and all had departed by the end of Aug. Only Sept record from Kelling Heath 13th followed by Oct migrants southwest Overstrand 9th and finally high west Weybourne 18th.

Montagu's Harriers (*James McCallum*)

GOSHAWK (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis gentilis*

Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor, most probably originating from reintroductions. Green List.

A scattering of records in first winter period involving birds on or near breeding sites. In spring noted displaying at 4 sites in the Brecks but no proven breeding records this year. No other records received.

SPARROWHAWK (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus nisus*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.

Spring movement noted from March 24th with 4 through Winterton followed by 1 over sea Sidestrand April 3rd, west Scolt Head 10th, 17th and 24th, east Weybourne 17th with 3 east there 24th and 7 east Paston 30th. Concentrations relating either to migrants or local birds noted with 10 Cley and 8 Northrepps April 9th and 7 Incleborough Hill 10th with 9 there 24th.

Breeding records received from Alderfen, Brancaster (2 pairs), Brettenham, Hindolveston, Holme, Hoveton (3 pairs), Long Stratton, Norwich, Sculthorpe and Sennowe but, as stated last year, this is clearly a very under-recorded bird during the breeding season. Recorded in 13 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

A small scatter of autumn migrants noted with 5 northwest Salthouse Sept 21st, in off the sea Burnham Overy Oct 3rd and 13th, south Hunstanton 18th with 3 there Nov 1st and east Kelling 8th.

BUZZARD (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo buteo*

Fairly common and increasing resident and passage migrant. Green List.

Continued increase in sightings evident in previous years and now well established in the county, particularly in central and western areas.

Although influenced by observer coverage (and perhaps duplication), a clear pattern evident with more counts during traditional spring and autumn passage seasons and peak counts of migrating birds as follows (west unless stated): 19 Cley March 16th, 11 Holme 23rd, 13 Happisburgh April 16th, 16 Salthouse 22nd, 40 Holme Sept 21st (20 west), 40 Holme 9th, 45 Holme and 16 Salthouse Heath 21st - the highest counts ever recorded in the county.

Breeding confirmed from 14 localities (single pairs unless stated): Brettenham Heath (sev), Burston, Guist, Honingham, Nar Valley Fisheries, North Creake, Ringland (2), Ringstead (3), Sculthorpe Moor, Sennowe Park (2), Southrepps, Sparham, Stanford TA (5+), Warham. Clearly under-recorded, with many additional breeding season reports including a number indicating possible or probable breeding. Recorded in 14 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (Roughleg) *Buteo lagopus lagopus*

Very scarce irruptive passage migrant and winter visitor.

During first winter period only regularly reported from Haddiscoe/Chedgrave/Fritton where 2 present to March 4th and 3 reported Jan 31st and Feb 3rd and 14th. Elsewhere isolated sightings in Jan/Feb from Docking Jan 1st, Wymondham 9th, Burnham Overy Dunes 16th, Horsey 19th, Sheringham Feb 1st (west), Buckenham 4th, Choseley 10th, Stiffkey 21st and Gunthorpe 25th, indicating the presence of further individuals wintering in the county unseen.

Lingering individual at Hoveton Park March 4th-22nd and further sightings at this time from Admiralty Point March 17th, Guist 23rd, Upton Fen/Broad 30th and Letheringsett April 7th, suggesting a light spring passage. After a three-week absence, final bird of spring Breydon April 30th.

First of autumn Holme Oct 17th with another in off the sea and tracked along north coast Oct 18th, being logged at Stiffkey, Warham, Wells and Holkham. Thereafter at least 3 wandered the north coast between Weybourne and Holme until the year-end and seen almost daily in core area of Scolt Head-Holkham. Elsewhere in second winter period a long-staying bird intermittently Flitcham Oct 28th-Nov 21st perhaps responsible for sightings at Roydon Nov 2nd, Snettisham Nov 5th/6th and Pentney Heath Nov 23rd.

Top; Alpine Swift at Cromer –
part of an early Spring influx to East Anglia. *(Both; Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle left; Short-toed Lark on Blakeney Point in early Autumn. *(Richard Porter)*
Middle right; Shore Lark at Holkham. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Bottom; Waxwings in Great Yarmouth. *(Sue Gantlett)*

Top; Apparent Alder Flycatcher on Blakeney Point –
the most unexpected bird of the year. *(Both; Julian Bhalerao)*
Bottom; Olive-backed Pipit at Stiffkey. *(Steve Gantlett)*

Top left; A summering White-spotted Bluethroat at Welney. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Top right; Bluethroat on Blakeney Point – a rare Autumn sighting. *(Richard Porter)*
Middle left; Black Redstart. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle right; Icelandic Redwing at Walcott. *(Bob Cobbold)*
Bottom; Common Redstart. *(Neil Bowman)*

2010 was record year for Red-flanked Bluetails in the county.
Top left; Burnham Overy Dunes. *(Jim Almond)*
Top right; Waxham. *(Penny Clarke)*
Middle Left; Waxham. *(Penny Clarke)*
Middle right; Waxham. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Bottom left; Trapped at Denmark House, Weybourne. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Bottom right; Holme Dunes. *(Penny Clarke)*

In central and east Norfolk isolated sightings from widely scattered localities: Gorleston Oct 18th, Breydon 22nd, Waxham 22nd, Hickling Nov 6th, Eccles 19th, Sutton Nov 30th and Dec 30th, Blickling Park Dec 1st and a presumably returning bird Haddiscoe/Chedgrave at least Dec 10th-19th.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

First of year Burnham Overy March 20th followed by 3 further March records: Breydon 26th/27th and Northrepps and Snettisham 27th. April started slowly with just 3 sightings, at King's Lynn 5th and Titchwell and Yarmouth 8th, before a lull finally broken by a bird over West Acre April 21st.

Thereafter almost daily sightings from 27 localities until last May sightings at Hockwold Washes and Holkham Bay May 25th. As usual, most present only briefly but lingering birds in the Holme/Thornham Hbr/Titchwell/Scolt Head area April 25th/26th, Blakeney/Cley April 30th/May 1st and Ranworth Broad May 17th/18th. Spate of reports in early June from Blakeney Hbr, Holkham Bay, Holme and Great Ryburgh presumably late northbound migrants, last Blakeney GM June 24th.

No further records until Watton Aug 11th, the harbinger of a protracted southerly withdrawal that included several long-staying birds at Mid-Yare RSPB Aug 23rd-Sept 9th, Alderfen/Cockshoot Broads Sept 2nd-25th, Wensum Valley centred on Lyng/Swanton Morley Sept 6th-Oct 6th and finally a late bird Hilgay Oct 3rd-Nov 6th. Otherwise many typically brief autumn records on isolated dates from 24 sites.

KESTREL (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident and passage migrant. Amber List.

Very few reports of significant gatherings during the year with no double-figure counts and just 9 Ouse Washes Jan 4th and 7 Burnham Overy Oct 2nd the largest counts received. It is now many years since regular reports of large numbers in the Wash.

In contrast, more evidence of spring passage than usual with a spate of reports of birds apparently on active migration: Hunstanton March 19th (south), Cromer 26th (east), Hopton 31st (in off the sea), Weybourne April 22nd (north out to sea), Scolt Head April 23rd (2 west over sea) and another west 24th, Sidestrand 27th (out to sea) and finally Scolt Head April 28th and May 19th (both west).

Breeding recorded at just 19 sites and presumably under-recorded (single pairs unless stated): Beeston, Brancaster Thompson Farms (3), Burnham Deepdale, Elsing, Guist, Haddiscoe Langley Marshes, Hoveton Park (3), Ickburgh, King's Lynn Beet Factory (site of), Little Walsingham, North Creake (2), Oby (2), Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringstead, Roydon, Sculthorpe, Sparham (2) and Wellingham. In Stanford TA 24 chicks were ringed. Recorded in 15 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Evidence of post-breeding dispersal or autumn migration provided by sightings of individuals on the move at Hopton July 23rd (north), Scolt Head 27th (northwest out to sea), Hopton Sept 15th (4 in off the sea) and Salthouse Heath Sept 21st (6 west-northwest).

Regularly reported hunting Sand Martins around cliff colonies between Cromer and Sheringham during summer months.

Kestrel (*John Wagstaffe*)

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

Very scarce passage migrant in spring.

Four records involving 5 birds: 2 females Breydon May 28th (INS), adult female Mundesley Paston May 30th (MDF), first-summer female West Somerton June 22nd (TA) and first-summer male Burnham Thorpe July 3rd (JRMcC).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

British form *aesalon* a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Icelandic form *subaesalon* (Icelandic Merlin) may also occur. Amber List (both forms).

Increasingly scarce, low numbers present in the county during first winter period with peak count of just 3 Warham Jan 3rd and 2 together on only 5 occasions: Choseley Jan 15th, Sheringham 25th, Hickling 30th, Blakeney Point March 30th and Scolt Head April 3rd, the last 2 perhaps indications of a barely perceptible spring passage through the county. Otherwise singles reported on largely isolated dates from coastal and Broadland sites, also Aylmerton, Ouse Washes, Pudding Norton, Weeting and West Walton.

Final sightings of spring in May at Waxham 1st, Aylmerton 9th and Scolt Head on 3 dates until last May 16th but 2 unusual midsummer reports from Blakeney Point June 6th and Berney July 22nd.

Presumed first of autumn Scolt Head Aug 4th and Breydon next day with 8 further Aug sightings from Scolt Head-Blakeney Point hinting at a single wandering bird before 2 Blakeney Point Aug 31st. Numerous sightings Sept-Dec with peak of 3 Burnham Overy Oct 2nd and 2 together at 10 sites on north coast and Ongar Hill Oct 7th, although it is unclear how many individuals involved. Again scarce away from coastal fringe and Broadland but also recorded at Colkirk, Flitcham, Hilgay, Hockwold Washes, Houghton Park, New Costessey, Sculthorpe and West Walton.

HOBBY (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo subbbuteo*

Scarce, though increasing, summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.

First of spring Guestwick and Incleborough Hill April 6th but no more until Titchwell April 18th and 1-2 at an additional 25 sites by the month end. Thereafter recorded daily from wide range of habitats across the county throughout summer months and peak counts at this time 4 Hickling May 6th, 4 Boughton Fen 13th, 7 Great Ryburgh 21st and Upton June 3rd.

Breeding reported from Reedham (1 pair), Mid-Yare RSPB (2), Stanford TA (6), West Caister (1) and Thetford Forest where 12 successful nests reared 23 young and 8 other pairs where success unknown. Autumn peak counts of just 4 Tunstall Aug 14th and Lyng Sept 11th with smaller numbers present at many sites throughout Sept. Recorded from 11 localities in Oct with last of year Holme Oct 18th and (attacking a Peregrine) Ranworth Broad Oct 21st.

Birds recorded hunting Sand Martins at cliff-nesting colonies in northeast of county on several dates while other prey items recorded included Swift, Swallow and Reed Warbler. One hunted insects by moonlight Lopham Fen at 2210 June 23rd. Another observed tussling with a Little Owl Aylmerton July 1st.

During the year recorded from a minimum of 196 locations across the county, a rapid increase for a species that was seen at just 36 sites as recently as 1985.

Hobbies (*Gary Wright*)

PEREGRINE (Peregrine Falcon) *Falco peregrinus peregrinus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. A bird showing characters of the Russian or North American Arctic forms *calidus/tundrius* (Tundra Peregrine) noted on at least one occasion. Amber List.

The increase evident in recent years continues apace with sightings from a minimum of 108 sites in 2010 (just 17 localities as recently as 1985). Now present throughout the year but a noticeable downturn in sightings during May (when reports from just 6 sites), suggesting a withdrawal, and mid-summer records restricted to King's Lynn, Snettisham, Holme, Scolt Head, Blakeney, Cley, Kelling WM, Barton Turf, Norwich, Wickhampton and Breydon/Berney.

A pair bred successfully in King's Lynn, rearing 2 young, - the first confirmed breeding in Norfolk since the mid-19th century. Another pair present throughout the year at Norwich Cathedral but did not breed (cf sightings in late summer 2009). These 2 sites provided the year's peak counts with 3 Norwich Cathedral March 31st and the successful family of 4 in King's Lynn.

After just 4 reports in first half of Aug, a subsequent increase in records with many reports until year end, as now expected. Prey items recorded included Woodcock and Knot while an individual chased auks offshore at Cley Oct 16th.

Interactions with Rough-legged Buzzard, Common Buzzard, Great Skua and Merlin recorded during the year while the last Hobby of the year attacked a Peregrine at Ranworth Broad Oct 21st.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus aquaticus*

Fairly common winter visitor and scarce breeder. Green List.

Peak numbers at regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Titchwell	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Cley	4	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	4	4	2
Hickling	2	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holme	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	4
Sculthorpe Moor	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3

Other locations with at least 3: *Jan* 3 Hardley Flood, 4 Stiffkey, 3 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; *March* 3 Strumpshaw Fen; *Sept* 3 Burgh Castle, 7 Cantley BF.

Breeding pairs/broods/nests (single unless stated): Burgh Castle (nest found), Cantley BF (adults and 3 small young crossed path), Catfield, Cley, Hickling Broad, 3 Roydon Common.

Cold weather effects included singles in gardens at Wighton Jan 9th and Hempton Dec 9th and a freshly dead bird at Stiffkey Dec 11th.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

Very scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

Blakeney Point Sept 26th (JRMcC, RFP).

CORNCRAKE (Corn Crake) *Crex crex*

Very rare vagrant. Red List.

Waxham Sept 1st (TB) and Blakeney Point Sept 21st (PN, ES).

MOORHEN (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

Common resident, some evidence of autumn immigration. Green List.

Peak monthly counts at the most regularly monitored sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	8	17	30	14	10	26	3	6	-	3	4	10
Titchwell	5	8	13	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burnham Norton	63	30	50	22	34	40	53	54	29	26	-	29
Holkham NNR	69	51	45	50	49	162	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blakeney GM	15	12	7	-	5	5	1	1	4	2	5	62
Cley	43	32	35	15	10	42	10	12	18	12	21	38
Salthouse	46	32	18	7	4	-	-	18	17	7	4	52
Welney	5	35	8	-	-	10	-	-	-	3	13	36

Other counts of 20 and over: *Jan* 20 Holme Redwell Marsh, 136 Ouse Washes, 26 Stiffkey, 30 Flitcham, 50 Holkham GM; *Feb* 35 Ouse Washes; *March* 51 Ouse Washes, 35 Holkham Park; *June* 25 Holme Redwell Marsh; *July* 30 Holme Redwell Marsh; *Aug* 29 Holkham GM; *Oct* 28 Holkham GM; *Nov* 20 Bayfield Hall, 48 Holkham GM, 20 Holme Redwell Marsh, 25 Stiffkey Fen; *Dec* 29 Thetford (Little Ouse), 24 Methwold Fens, 77 Holkham GM.

Breeding pairs recorded (singles unless stated): 21 Cley, 81 Holkham NNR, 8 Hoveton Park, 2 Kelling WM, 3 Marlingford Mere, Southrepps, 5 Welney, Weybourne, 13 Holme, Glandford. Recorded in 26 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

COOT (Common Coot) *Fulica atra atra*

Common resident and winter visitor. Green List. WeBS threshold for national importance 1730. Monthly max at all regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	100
Holme	62	53	70	29	27	46	15	14	-	50	8	40
Titchwell	20	41	54	16	26	18	66	82	46	-	-	-
Holkham NNR	116	93	75	88	85	316	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cley	4	21	24	18	19	26	11	20	3	1	3	1
Salthouse	22	19	13	8	-	-	-	20	10	11	3	17
Barton Broad	84	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ranworth Broad	134	69	41	-	-	2	-	-	-	33	113	-
Whitlingham CP	675	172	-	-	-	-	107	156	234	237	-	560
Welney	593	1036	770	-	-	60	-	-	-	16	240	50
Nar Valley Fisheries	50	227	129	42	-	64	86	136	84	370	-	-
Ouse Washes	1651	1193	169	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other counts exceeding 100: *Jan* 103 Gunton Park, 150 Ormesby Broad; *Feb* 115 Gunton Park, 116 Holkham GM; *July* 125 Ormesby Little Broad; *Aug* 132 Ormesby Little Broad; *Dec* 150 Rollesby Broad, 380 Filby Broad, 390 Ormesby Broad, 700 Ormesby Little Broad, 128 Thetford Nunnery Lakes.

Breeding pairs recorded (singles unless stated): Beetley, 13 Cley, 3 Earsham GP, 15 Hickling Broad, 158 Holkham NNR, Holkham Park lake, 3 Hoveton Park, 2 Kelling WM, 4 Marlingford Mere, 6 Morningthorpe, Pentney Heath, Syderstone Common, 30 Welney, Weybourne, 23 Holme, Strumpshaw Fen. Recorded in 4 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

CRANE (Common Crane) *Grus grus grus*

Scarce but increasing resident in the Broads. Birds from the migratory continental population may also occur. Amber List.

In east Norfolk first winter period max 19 Stubb Mill Jan 16th.

Ten pairs present in breeding season, of which 7 were confirmed to have bred, 1 probably bred

and another possibly did so. Five young fledged, equalling the previous best years of 2003 and 2005. The upward trend in this population continues.

In second winter period highest count 33 Waxham Sept 11th.

Along the north coast, wandering birds (or migrants) reported March to Nov: *March 21st* 3 west Sheringham Park, 2 west Weybourne, Kelling WM, Cley and Morston; *March 23rd* 6 southwest Langham, west Titchwell and Holme and south Hunstanton; *April 10th* east Titchwell, Burnham Overy, Stiffkey, Blakeney Point, West Runton, Incleborough Hill and Cromer and south Northrepps; *April 22nd* 3 west Kelling WM, Salthouse Heath, Burnham Norton and Burnham Deepdale; *April 23rd* west Kelling WM, Salthouse, Cley, Blakeney Point, Wells and Scolt Head; *April 24th* 3 east Scolt Head, Burnham Overy, Holkham, Blakeney Point, Cley and Salthouse Heath; *April 28th* 3 northwest Northrepps and west Beeston Regis, Sheringham, Cley, Blakeney Point, Holkham, Burnham Overy Staithe, Scolt Head and Holme; *May 14th* single east Walsey Hills and 3 east Scolt Head, Titchwell and Holme; *May 16th* 5 in off the sea Scolt Head then southeast Burnham Norton and Burnham Overy; *May 18th* 2 west Cley, Blakeney Point, Holkham (where landed), Scolt Head and Holme; *May 25th* 6 west Salthouse Heath and 7 west Cley; *July 22nd* 14 west Titchwell; *Oct 11th* 2 south King's Lynn; *Oct 25th* 3 Dereham; *Nov 21st* 2 east King's Lynn.

An adult missing a foot lingered between Kelling and Blakeney Aug 4th-29th.

In the west, recorded from Welney: 2 Aug 17th, 5 Sept 13th, 2 Oct 9th and 3 Nov 5th and 7th/8th. Elsewhere, single Hockwold March 22nd and 3 Methwold Nov 12th, presumably from Lakenheath Fen RSPB.

Cranes (*Phil Jones*)

OYSTERCATCHER (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 3200.
Most important and consistently counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	4836	5169	1701	1467	902	-	1508	6125	5395	5160	5425	7100
Holme	965	1437	1278	350	430	188	130	565	1061	1727	1742	1748
Titchwell	327	143	197	83	114	86	155	271	224	350	116	111
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	480	485	560	422	416	365	-	695	729	586	575	550
Wells Hbr	1	49	388	315	255	-	-	33	-	-	-	-
Warham SM	-	9	163	147	22	-	24	153	-	-	-	-
Blakeney Hbr/Point*	167	313	348	375	382	356	480	895	374	296	276	219
Cley	3	11	24	32	36	27	27	13	6	8	19	24
Breydon/Berney	4	5	72	93	60	34	80	47	9	6	1	3

Additional counts elsewhere: 275 Admiralty Point March, 300 Holkham Oct, 500 Hunstanton Oct, 250 North Wootton Marsh Feb and 508 Stiffkey SM Sept.

In spring birds departing eastwards from Scolt Head in April with 37 2nd, 401 16th and 20 25th and Weybourne 4 April 9th and 6 May 4th.

Breeding pairs noted: 32 Snettisham, 6 Ken Hill Marsh, 41 Holme (beach and grazing marshes), 117 Scolt Head (40-50 young fledged), 5 Burnham Deepdale (2 young fledged), 112 Holkham NNR (beach and grazing marshes), 118 Blakeney Point (good fledging success), 13 Cley (none hatched). Inland breeding reported from Beetley, Bintree Mill, Courtyard Farm Ringstead, Dereham, Guestwick, Guist Common, 2 Halvergate Marshes, Hoveton Park, Itteringham, Langham, Ludham (fledged 2 young), Marlingford Mere (with 2 young), Martham, 9 Mid-Yare RSPB, Pensthorpe (with 3 young), 2 Pentney GP (4 young seen), Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Roydon Common, 2 Sculthorpe Moor, Sparham Pools, 2 Swanton Morley, Thornham, Upton, Wareham, 2 Welney, 2 Wighton and Worthing. A pair also nested on a flat roof at Asda in Yarmouth. Recorded in 12 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Westerly passage past coastal sites from late July to Aug, best counts 29 Weybourne July 29th, 55 Sheringham 30th, 20 Aug 9th, 50 Scolt Head 13th, 22 Weybourne 16th, 62 Mundesley and Sheringham 17th, 37 Scolt Head 30th and 20 Weybourne 30th.

BLACK-WINGED STILT

Very rare vagrant.

A flock of 5 Titchwell June 5th/6th (per Recorder), the largest flock ever recorded in the county.

AVOCET (Pied Avocet) *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Fairly common resident and summer visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 730. WeBS threshold for national importance 35.

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	2	63	358	309	253	-	350	31	14	4	2	-
Holme	-	21	47	73	54	45	11	7	-	-	-	-
Titchwell	14	54	114	80	43	166	170	13	7	28	20	13
Burnham Norton	-	-	56	41	92	28	8	-	-	-	-	-
Holkham NNR	-	-	54	79	129	71	200	14	4	-	-	-
Blakeney GM	-	-	11	12	43	12	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cley	40	100	190	239	160	238	212	44	28	23	24	28
Salthouse	-	-	34	50	26	43	-	-	-	-	-	1
Breydon/Berney	189	189	380	236	46	156	914	982	919	125	95	151

Peak counts elsewhere: *March* 74 Burgh Castle, 28 Ousemouth, 53 North Wootton; *April* 90 North Wootton, 39 Stiffkey Fen, 51 Welney; *May* 62 Welney; *Aug* 28 Admiralty Point.

A record number of 21 sites recorded 422 pairs this year, the reduction in pairs again due to missing information from key sites: 113 Snettisham, 1 Ken Hill Marsh, 29 Holme, 8 Titchwell, 56 Burnham Deepdale, 3 Burnham Norton, 76 Holkham NNR (fledged 32 young), 62 Cley (24 clutches hatched, of 64 chicks 10 fledged), 10 Blakeney Point, 12 Berney (one brood fledged), 11 Mid-Yare RSPB, 27 Welney (fledged 22 young). Away from main colonies Burgh St. Peter (fledged 2 young), 5 Chedgrave Marshes (one chick fledged), Hardley Flood, Pensthorpe (fledged 4 young), Pentney GP (fledged 4 young), Ringstead (in arable field), Upton (with 3 young) , West Walton (fledged 2 young) and 2 Wissington (pair fledged young).

	98	*99*	*00*	*01*	*02*	*03*	*04*	*05*	*06*	*07*	*08*	*09*	*10*
Pairs	267	186	309	364	383	397	482	405	335	465	279*	529	422
Sites	16	11	14	16	14	14	18	14	12	17	9*	13	21

**Data incomplete*

Small numbers reported away from breeding sites: Barton Broad April 17th, Clenchwarton 8 May 14th, 2 Earsham GP June 16th, Great Ryburgh May 8th, Martham Broad June 10th and 8 Scolt Head March 20th and 10 May 16th.

Offshore a light passage noted with 2 west Scolt Head April 15th, 2 south Hunstanton 23rd, 3 west Scolt Head May 23rd, 2 west Northrepps 30th, 2 west Scolt Head June 20th, 3 west July 22nd, 1 east Holme Sept 7th, 2 west Holme Sept 24th and 25th, 4 north Gorleston Oct 10th and south Happisburgh Nov 9th.

STONE-CURLEW (Eurasian Stone-curlew) *Burhinus oedicnemus oedicnemus*

Fairly common summer visitor, almost exclusively to Brecks. Red List.

No wintering birds at start of year. Early arrivals noted with 5 Great Cressingham March 12th then 7 21st, 2 in west Norfolk 27th and 3 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 29th.

In Norfolk Brecks 128 pairs (17 of these were not monitored) raised 62 young, while in northwest Norfolk 8 pairs fledged 4 young and there were another estimated 3 pairs elsewhere. Of the Norfolk total of 139 pairs monitored, 66 young fledged, giving a productivity of 0.55 fledged young per pair.

Roaming birds included: *April* Cley 9th (heard south of Barn Drift), Weybourne 11th, Halvergate Marshes 13th and Winterton 29th; *May* Waxham 3rd; *June* heard over Thorpe Marriott 18th.

Autumn gatherings: 10 Brettenham Heath Aug 6th, 30 Sept 14th, Great Cressingham 14 Sept 1st, 55 11th, 89 17th, 16 Nov 12th, 6 16th, 5 23rd and 3 25th (last date), Stanford TA 7-8 most of Aug, Thetford Nunnery Lakes 5 Aug 11th and 3 14th and northwest Norfolk 5 Aug 8th.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius curonicus*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.

First arrivals 2 Welney March 14th, Pentney GP 16th, 3 23rd, Breydon/Berney 19th, Buckenham Marshes 20th, Earsham GP 21st, 4 26th, Cley 27th and Lyng 28th. In spring recorded at 24 sites including 7 Pentney GP April 6th, 11 19th, 7 Earsham GP April 5th and 11th, 6 Thorpe St. Andrew April 22nd, 6 Welney May 15th, 4 Cley April 20th, 4 Pensthorpe May 9th, 3 Langmere April 9th and 3 Stiffkey Fen April 22nd. Visible migration: south Hunstanton April 2nd and in off the sea Hopton April 8th.

A total of 16 breeding reports received (17 in 2009) from 12 (13 in 2009) sites: Beetley, Cley, Earsham GP (failed), Marlingford Mere, King's Lynn (former BF) hatched young, Norwich on building site adjacent to Dragonfly House fledging 2 young, Northwold Fen, Pensthorpe, 2 Pentney GP (one pair fledged 4 young), Titchwell, 4 Welney (fledged 5 young) and Wissington BF.

Post-breeding dispersal/autumn passage from early July, peak counts (3 or more birds): 6 Stiffkey July 3rd, 3 Nar Valley Fisheries 4th, 25 Cley 5th, 6 Titchwell 8th, 5 Kelling WM 11th and 3 Holkham GM 17th. In Aug 6 Titchwell 7th, 4 Thurne 8th, 6 Cley 21st and 4 Nar Valley Fisheries 22nd. In Sept 3 Titchwell 5th. Last record 4 Nar Valley Fisheries Oct 1st.

Visible migration: west Holme July 7th and Mundesley July 13th and Sept 13th.

RINGED PLOVER (Common Ringed Plover) *Charadrius hiaticula*

Nominate British, southern Scandinavian, Iceland and Greenland form a fairly common summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. Northern Scandinavian and Russian form *tundrae* (Tundra Ringed Plover) a fairly common passage migrant. Amber List (nominate) and Green List (*tundrae*). WeBS threshold for international importance 730. WeBS threshold for national importance 330.

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	25	53	58	52	24	40	270	255	14	-	-	-
Holme	37	53	70	70	63	18	17	109	183	200	7	12
Titchwell	-	2	17	-	62	6	3	177	-	1	2	1
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	57	38	74	145	335	200	182	995	1034	281	45	66
Blakeney Hbr/Point	31	37	23	17	61	52	32	120	160	91	145	94
Cley	5	22	17	7	55	57	15	33	20	48	16	13
Breydon/Berney	60	46	57	167	198	246	7	128	135	140	78	59

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 59 Thornham Hbr; *May* 40 Thornham Hbr, 57 Wells Hbr, 45 Warham SM; *Aug* 62 Burnham Overy Hbr; *Sept* 45 Stiffkey SM.

Spring passage of small dark birds from mid-April to June, highest counts: *April* 80 Scolt Head 29th; *May* 112 Breydon 17th, 123 Scolt Head 20th (flew north in evening), 85 Hickling Broad 24th, 43 Wells 25th and 160 Breydon 26th and 15 Wissington BF 26th; *June* 246 Breydon, 174 Reedham 1st and 57 Cley 7th.

Total of 159-160 breeding pairs reported from 12 sites, majority coastal: 12 Snettisham, 17 Holme, 8 Titchwell, 75 Scolt Head (from 50 broods 100 young fledged), 20 Holkham, 15 Blakeney Point (fledged 8 young), 2 Cley (fledged 3 young), Salthouse, West Runton, 1-2 Eccles and 6 Yarmouth. Inland a pair at Welney.

Westerly movements in late summer/autumn: 19 west Kelling Aug 13th, 9 west 24th, 10 south Hopton 29th, 18 west Scolt Head 30th. In Sept 4 north Roydon Common 16th.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Very scarce or rare passage migrant, mainly in spring.

Three records: Holme April 13th, female Heacham April 28th and juv Breydon Aug 7th.

DOTTEREL (Eurasian Dotterel) *Charadrius morinellus*

Scarce or very scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

A poor year. In spring 3 Scolt Head briefly before departing high north April 25th, 2 Choseley May 1st and 4 Stanford TA May 19th. In autumn Winterton Aug 16th and juv with Golden Plover Titchwell Nov 5th.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

Very rare vagrant.

Juv Cley and Blakeney Harbour Oct 20th-Nov 22nd, also Langham Oct 20th (MAG, JRMcC, AMS *et al.*).

GOLDEN PLOVER (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common passage migrant and very common winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 9300. WeBS threshold for national importance 2500.

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	150	50	-	-	1	700	700	1730	2000	40
Holme	220	250	18	580	6	300	1000	500	170	70
Titchwell	-	-	280	-	30	200	260	-	800	-
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	215	-	110	11	180	500	1800	1800	2000	150
Blakeney Hbr/GM/Pt	200	750	550		6	130	150	2000	2000	20
Cley	155	559	800	52	4	-	70	2000	1700	73
Breydon/Berney	1908	3000	4830	83	74	1460	3123	13700	18100	2116

Counts from the north coast should be used with caution as much interchange takes place between these sites and those just inland.

Elsewhere counts over 1000 in first winter period: 1380 Burnham Norton, 1400 Great Cressingham and 2000 Walcott. A cold weather movement of 150 west Kelling WM Jan 24th. Visible spring passage included 13 west Kelling WM March 19th, 15 east Scolt Head April 17th and west Cley June 26th.

First returning bird Sculthorpe July 9th. Highest counts in autumn: *Aug* 300 Brancaster, 600 Burnham Deepdale and 500 Warham Greens; *Sept* 700 Burnham Deepdale, 300 Eastgate, 500 Wells; *Oct* 1100 Burnham Overy Dunes, 200 Foxley, 300 Holkham, 1000 Horsey Gap, 430 Lenwade, 120 Methwold, 300 North Tuddenham, 361 Ovington, 800 Pulham St. Mary and 200 Waxham. Late summer/autumn passage with 6 west Scolt Head July 16th, 10 west 28th, 30 west Aug 16th and 55 west 30th, 6 west Holme July 27th, 20 east Kelling WM Sept 17th, 24 west Oct 27th and 35 west Nov 5th.

Counts over 1000 elsewhere in second winter period: 1000 Buckenham Marshes, 2401 Burnham Norton and 5000 Ongar Hill. The cold weather in Dec prompted some movement with 45 east Kelling WM 6th and 30 east Cromer GC 26th. A striking leucistic bird Breydon Oct 7th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 2500. WeBS threshold for national importance 530.

Most consistently counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	238	96	300	2076	1886	-	4	1000	2700	1203	1017	35
Holme	141	298	146	81	220	-	25	60	1290	1495	220	388
Titchwell	-	-	1	70	41	-	28	4	11	3	37	16
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	243	218	205	295	294	54	76	341	343	245	233	290
Blakeney Hbr*/Point	88	45	45	9	8	19	23	85	30	146	65	135
Cley	7	8	7	1	4	4	1	7	8	10	7	18
Breydon/Berney	44	49	40	8	15	4	3	5	16	28	36	46

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 120 Wells Hbr; *April* 80 North Wootton; *Sept* 378 Stiffkey SM.

Inland records: 2 How Hill Jan 26th, Welney March 17th and April 29th, Northwold Fen 22nd, Hickling May 24th, Aug 5th, Welney Sept 26th and Oct 19th.

Visible autumn migration (west): 4 Scolt Head July 20th, 6 Overstrand 8th, 38 Mundesley Aug 12th, 24 Kelling, 30 Scolt Head and 4 Kelling Hard 13th, 24 Scolt Head, 22 Sheringham 23rd and 6 north Happisburgh, 3 Overstrand, 11 Cromer, 54 Scolt Head and 31 Mundesley, all 30th.

In winter one with Golden Plover Happisburgh Dec 9th.

LAPWING (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*

Fairly common, though declining, resident and very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. WeBS threshold for international importance 20000. WeBS threshold for national importance 20000.

Most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	60	285	77	52	17	-	250	450	290	25
Titchwell	154	220	339	4	-	120	-		-234	35
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	995	220	20	-	55	125	145	320	2000	1630
Holkham NNR	556	781	325	158	142	141	-	-	82	-
Blakeney GM/Cley	600	700	1103	52	133	152	300	335	538	86
Welney	212	220	220	-	-	-	100	30	3236	35
Breydon/Berney	2960	4000	2100	314	28	200	488	2240	10700	2050

Records over 1000 (fewer than last year) from elsewhere: *Feb* 1000 Methwold Fens; *March* 1000 North Wootton; *Oct* 1500 North Wootton; *Nov* 3000 Burnham Deepdale and 2400 Ongar Hill. A leucistic bird Winterton March 8th.

Spring easterly movements in March with 110 Kelling Heath 1st, 150 Mundesley 14th and 60 Winterton same day. In April 20 south Hunstanton 20th.

In breeding season an improved total of 723 pairs reported from 31 sites: *Wash* Snettisham, 15 Ken Hill Marsh; *North Coast* 37 Holme, Titchwell (fledged 3 young), 20 Burnham Deepdale, 188 Holkham NNR, 40 Cley (7-10 young fledged), Kelling WM; *Broads* 157 Berney (very few fledged), 3 Chedgrave Marshes, 9 Hickling Broad, 2 Ludham, 71 Mid-Yare RSPB, 4 Oby Marshes; *Brecks* 2 Bodney, 2-3 Brettenham Heath, 3 Fowlmere, 2 Langford, 2 Marlingford Mere, 40 Northwold Fen, 10 Stanford TA, 4 West Mere; *Fens* 93 Welney; *Inland* 3 Guestwick, 4 Guist, Leziate Heath, Morningthorpe, 3 Roydon Common, North Tuddenham, 2 Warham and 3 Wighton. Recorded in 20 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

All summer post-breeding westerly movements from Scolt Head, with 99 June 23rd, 52 July 1st, 260 2nd, 236 19th and 347 20th.

Autumn passage began late Sept, peaking in late Oct/early Nov, with a further influx late Nov in response to falling temperatures. All counts of 300+: *Oct* 366 Sheringham 2nd; *Nov* 929 Hunstanton 8th and 750 east Sheringham 28th (many in off the sea). Also 95 west Burnham Deepdale Dec 16th.

Lapwings (*James McCallum*)

KNOT (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus*

Greenland and Canadian form *islandica* (Greenland Knot) a very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Nominate Siberian form (Siberian Knot) may also occur. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 4500. WeBS threshold for national importance 2800.
Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	24000	18800	10025	4550	810	1500	4695	16500	20000	40000	42200	350
Holme	710	293	102	300	30	1000	2800	15000	72301	72000	4104	48
Titchwell	1	-	30	-	30	3700	2500	3	50	-	-	565
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	280	1500	600	100	2800	1100	180	195	470	185	120	600
Wells Hbr	300	-	560	250	-	-	-	-	-	220	1110	3180
Warham SM	-	-	950	-	-	-	-	-	-	1230	260	550
Stiffkey SM	407	834	227	228	2	-	-	-	120	-	-	-
Blakeney Hbr	400	708	78	60	27	11	56	37	14	5	17	800
Breydon/Berney	165	162	154	18	9	6	12	34	38	25	83	181

Excellent numbers again roosting at Holme Sept/Oct when significant proportion of the Wash population forced to roost on shingle spits here during very high spring tides. During June good numbers of mostly non-breeding plumage birds noted daily between Holme, Titchwell and Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr when probably around 5000 birds in the area.

Additional counts elsewhere: Admiralty Point 5000 Jan, 3500 Dec, North Wootton Marsh 5000 Jan, Hunstanton 4500 Sept, Thornham Hbr 55 July, Holkham Bay 45 Dec, Stiffkey SM 120 Sept and Cley 44 June.

First juv of autumn Breydon Aug 14th.

Westward passage offshore in autumn late July-Nov, when 45 Scolt Head July 20th and 61 28th, 38 Kelling Aug 13th, 118 Scolt Head and 55 Sheringham 23rd, 123 Scolt Head 30th and 63 Scolt Head Sept 7th.

Cold weather movement late Nov and Dec when 70 east Kelling Nov 30th, 55 east Sheringham Dec 10th and 40 west 12th and 40 east Kelling 15th.

Very few inland records with singles Welney Feb 11th and March 28th, Pentney GP March 8th and Northwold May 9th.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List. WeBS threshold for international importance 1200. WeBS threshold for national importance 210.

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	15	120	3	190	1453	-	525	230	1365	448	800	480
Holme	1027	352	135	115	60	3	170	145	755	248	161	412
Thornham	136	3	76	158	263	-	32	40	15	19	125	-
Titchwell	25	35	86	209	477	-	65	84	-	25	172	31
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	55	58	67	320	150	40	285	433	272	95	53	200
Holkham Bay	54	12	-	57	4	-	-	-	1	45	50	150
Wells Hbr	-	-	10	-	12	-	-	-	-	45	-	35
Stiffkey SM	-	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blakeney Hbr	15	14	18	100	219	35	110	-	190	32	15	75
Breydon/Berney	6	-	49	21	30	4	2	12	2	1	4	5

Apart from a good count at Snettisham in May, spring passage generally disappointing.

Peak counts elsewhere: Old Hunstanton 120 Sept, Brancaster 57 Dec, Burnham Overy Hbr 70 Sept, 34 Nov, 122 Dec and Waxham 23 Dec.

Few inland records, all during spring when Lyng-Easthaugh GP April 22nd, Welney May 8th, 4 Wissington BF 9th, 1 14th, 2 21st and 3 Hickling Rush Hills May 24th-26th.

Passage offshore in autumn: 31 west Scolt Head July 18th, 9 south Hopton Aug 4th, 9 west Weybourne 23rd, 11 west Scolt Head 27th and 41 west Mundesley 30th.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn. Green List.

Spring passage very light with just 14 reported, none until May when singles Burnham Deepdale 12th, Titchwell 17th and Breydon 21st. Recorded daily during rest of month when up to 2 Titchwell and Breydon and singles Cley and Hickling Rush Hills. In June singles Breydon 1st-5th, Scolt Head 11th, Cley 12th, Titchwell 13th and last Cley where 1 19th-22nd and 2 23rd/24th.

First returning birds of a poor autumn July when Cley 12th-14th and 22nd and 2 Titchwell 22nd. No others until second week of Aug, after which daily during month, peak counts 5 Cley 15th and 25th, 3 Titchwell 19th-23rd, and 1-2 Snettisham, Holme, Wells East Hills, Blakeney Point, Stiffkey Fen, Breydon and Cantley BF. Also during Aug 1 west Weybourne and 2 west Sheringham 12th. Highest counts of autumn Sept though passage remained poor, peak counts 13 Cley 15th and 9 16th, 8 Titchwell 12th-15th and 7 17th-20th, 7 Cantley BF and Holme 11th and 1-2 Blakeney Point, Breydon, Nar Valley Fisheries, Snettisham, Scolt Head, Stiffkey Fen, Welney and Wissington BF. Most Oct birds during first third of month when 6 Cley 5th, 6 Snettisham 11th, 4 Titchwell 6th, 3 Welney 8th and

up to 2 Breydon, Buckenham, Nar Valley Fisheries and Stiffkey Fen.

Last of year singles Morston Oct 12th, Titchwell 13th, Buckenham 14th, 2 Welney 19th and 1 20th.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring. Red List.

An average spring with around 23 reported April 30th-June 15th, first Cley April 30th and in May 3 Cley 5th-8th and 11th, 4 24th, with smaller numbers daily 4th-29th, 2 Burnham Overy GM 11th, 1 12th, 20th and 22nd, Berney 13th, Hickling Rush Hills 14th, 3 23rd, 1 24th/25th, 1-2 daily Titchwell 14th-26th, Scolt Head 19th, 2 Wissington BF 20th, Welney 22nd-24th and last of spring Berney June 15th.

Just 1 record in autumn: juv Wissington BF Sept 8th-11th.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

Rare vagrant.

Two adults Breydon July 18th/19th (PRA *et al.*) and juv Hickling Swim Coots Oct 25th (TA, PJH, AJK).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn.

Around 12 recorded, all in the autumn: Titchwell July 9th-13th, Welney 13th-25th, Snettisham 17th/18th, Titchwell 22nd-25th, Hickling Rush Hills Aug 5th-10th, Hickling Swim Coots 17th, Breydon Sept 13th, Cley 14th, Wissington BF 19th-21st, Titchwell 20th, Welney Oct 6th-29th and Holme 9th.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn. Green List.

Spring passage very poor with just 8 noted at Snettisham May 2nd-5th, Titchwell 14th-19th, Breydon 20th, Cley 22nd and 2 27th, Titchwell June 1st-13th and a first-summer bird Cley 13th-16th.

First returning birds in autumn Titchwell July 2nd, Breydon 10th and Cley 16th after which daily to end of month. Recorded from just 5 sites during rest of month including 5 Blakeney Hbr, 3 Titchwell and 3 Cley 25th. Passage only slightly better in Aug with first juvs from 10th and best counts of month 10 Cley 31st and 7 10th, 6 Scolt Head and 3 Breydon 27th, 4 Breydon 28th and 1-2 Snettisham, Holme, Titchwell, Holkham GM, Stiffkey Fen, Blakeney Point, Cantley BF and Welney. Also in Aug small numbers west with 6 Scolt Head 27th and singles Weybourne 16th and Sheringham 30th. Numbers in autumn peaked during first half of Sept when 26 Scolt Head 12th and 22 7th, 20 Cley 4th, 18 Breydon 8th-10th, 15 Titchwell 5th, 9 Snettisham 12th, 5 Cantley BF 11th/12th and smaller numbers Snettisham CP, Burnham Deepdale, Burnham Norton, Stiffkey Fen, Blakeney Point, Kelling WM, Wissington BF and Welney. In Oct 1-3 Burnham Overy Hbr, Stiffkey Fen, Blakeney Point, Cley, Breydon, with last of year Breydon 17th and Cley 30th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

In first winter period as usual best site Eccles/Sea Palling where up to 9 Jan, 12 Feb, 17 March and 13 April. Elsewhere 1-2 Snettisham, Heacham, Holme, Titchwell, Scolt Head, Blakeney Point, Sheringham, Walcott, Winterton and Yarmouth. Also in spring group of 5 west Sheringham Jan 17th. Last of spring second half of April when singles Sea Palling 20th and Sheringham 29th and Eccles May 1st.

First returning migrants in autumn Eccles July 28th, west Sheringham Aug 13th, Cley 19th, 2 Scolt Head 20th-25th, Sheringham 30th, with up to 6 Eccles by end of Aug. In Sept/Oct up to 3 Snettisham, Cley and Sheringham and 1-2 Titchwell, Scolt Head, Blakeney Point, Eccles, Walcott, Happisburgh, Horsey, Yarmouth and Gorleston. Also during autumn westerly passage on several dates, especially late Aug when 2 Mundesley 27th/28th, 3 Scolt Head, 14 Blakeney Point, 6 Cley, 1 Weybourne, 2 Cromer and 9 Mundesley 30th and later in autumn singles Cromer Sept 26th, Sheringham Oct 21st,

Cley 24th and north Hopton 31st.

In final 2 months of year 8 Eccles Nov and 11 Dec, 7 east Sheringham Dec 2nd and 1-2 Heacham, Holkham Bay, Cley, Walcott, Horsey and Yarmouth.

Purple Sandpipers (*Gary Wright*)

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

British, southern Norwegian, Icelandic and south-east Greenland form *schinzii* (Southern Dunlin) a common passage migrant, north-east Greenland form *arctica* (Greenland Dunlin) a passage migrant in unknown numbers. Scandinavian and Russian form *alpina* (Northern Dunlin) a very common passage migrant and winter visitor. A bird showing characters of the Canadian-breeding form *hudsonia* noted on one occasion. Green List (*arctica*), Amber List (*schinzii*) and Red List (*alpina*). WeBS threshold for international importance 13300. WeBS threshold for national importance 5600.

Peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	5135	2170	3400	3900	3357	-	3223	4995	6400	8355	4707	405
Holme	920	306	240	12	120	4	19	148	166	312	249	513
Titchwell	4	89	-	-	20	4	150	350	166	53	113	106
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	1500	700	500	320	400	58	700	750	704	549	900	1165
Wells Hbr	11	2	40	-	43	-	-	-	-	34	97	-
Warham SM	1	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	130	75	26
Stiffkey SM	332	540	150	87	80	-	-	-	60	-	-	-
Blakeney Hbr	677	296	200	25	65	20	280	206	150	170	170	1214
Cley	259	236	257	22	44	25	272	370	348	480	555	481
Breydon/Berney	5108	4870	1560	1570	373	55	173	177	464	882	3910	5325

Highest counts elsewhere: Admiralty Point 1250 Jan, North Wootton Marsh 500 Sept, Burnham Overy Hbr 173 Jan and Happisburgh 45 Dec.

Also good numbers on coastal grazing marshes during winter months, perhaps in response to cold weather: Burnham Deepdale 300 Feb and 380 Dec, Burnham Norton 140 Feb and 430 Nov, Salthouse 38 Dec and Kelling WM 49 Dec.

Offshore passage mostly to west Aug-Nov, best counts 301 Scolt Head, 100 Sheringham and 50 Weybourne Aug 30th, 65 Sheringham Sept 25th and 114 Cromer Sept 26th.

More than usual inland during the year, most spring and autumn, with smaller numbers during cold weather in Dec, peak counts 73 Cantley BF Sept 11th, 23 Ouse Washes Jan 6th, 28 Welney April 6th, 15 Sept 27th, 48 Nov 15th, 5 Pentney GP May 15th and 1-3 Earsham GP, Filby Broad, Limpenhoe Marshes, Nar Valley Fisheries, Northwold and Whitlingham CP.

First juv Scolt Head July 7th, a leucistic bird Breydon Nov 15th and one foraging on main road on snow-melt West Runton Dec 12th.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*

Very rare vagrant.

Adult Titchwell July 2nd-20th (per Recorder).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. Red List. WeBS threshold for national importance 7.

Monthly peak counts at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	6	7	11	2	-	-	1	3	4	6	-	-
Titchwell	68	52	42	5	1	3	34	62	75	-	97	53
Holkham NNR	4	31	7	1	1	-	1	16	2	2	22	-
Stiffkey Fen	-	-	2	15	-	-	2	9	17	10	-	2
Blakeney GM	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Cley	45	42	33	15	15	7	28	32	27	45	44	39
Kelling/Salthouse	15	8	1	-	-	-	1	4	6	9	1	15
Breydon/Berney	22	38	37	1	1	-	24	32	5	8	11	56
Buckenham/Cantley	25	-	10	-	-	1	5	36	38	36	11	1
Hickling Broad	-	-	2	-	-	-	39	39	6	-	-	-
Welney	4	-	55	55	-	-	27	-	66	21	75	8

A poor year with relatively low numbers during both winter and passage periods.

Also in the winter months 6 Potter Heigham Jan 24th, 55 Ouse Washes (Norfolk) March 17th, singles Ongar Hill Nov 2nd, 17 Waxham Nov 7th, 4 Happisburgh Nov 14th, 17 Burnham Deepdale Nov 18th and 20 Dec 5th, 1 Wroxham Broad Dec 3rd and 8 Thornham Farms Dec 12th.

Virtually none elsewhere in spring away from tabulated sites with 4 Barton Turf Fen April 29th and singles Northwold May 9th and Burnham Deepdale 12th.

Last in spring west Sheringham May 23rd with only a short gap before first returning migrants 4 Cley June 13th.

More widespread in autumn when up to 2 Snettisham Aug-Oct, 4 Wissington BF Aug 4th, 1 Strumpshaw Fen 7th, 2 Great Ryburgh 20th, one sporadically Thetford Nunnery Lakes Sept 8th-17th, 2 North Wootton Marshes 12th, 32 Waxham Oct 10th, 2 feeding on cliff top fields Happisburgh 24th and 2 Strumpshaw Fen 30th.

Small numbers west in autumn with singles Sheringham July 16th, Scolt Head Aug 6th, 10 Cromer Aug 30th and 2 Scolt Head Sept 7th.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

A very poor first winter period with 1-2 at just 22 sites: Blakeney Point, Breydon, Burnham Norton, Burnham Thorpe, Buxton Heath, Cley, Costessey, Holme, How Hill, Marsham, Morston, Mundesley, Nar Valley Fisheries, Scolt Head, Sculthorpe Moor, Southrepps Common, Swafield, Titchwell, Welney, West Runton and Whitlingham CP.

Last of spring April when Stiffkey Fen 3rd, 2 Burgh Common 6th and singles Scolt Head 6th, Holkham and Sutton Fen 7th, Thorpe St. Andrew Station Marshes 16th and Strumpshaw Fen 25th.

First returning migrants in second half Sept when Sculthorpe Moor 19th, Breydon 20th, Blakeney Point 22nd, Burnham Deepdale 26th, an impressive 8 Blakeney Point 27th and one Kelling WM 28th. Though the number of sites reporting birds during Oct increased, numbers were low apart from 3 Weybourne 14th and 2 Burnham Deepdale 20th. Elsewhere singles Blakeney Point, Brancaster, Breydon, Burnham Norton, Cley, Eccles, Roydon Common, Scolt Head, Sculthorpe Moor, Snettisham, Strumpshaw, Thornham, Titchwell and Winterton.

Numbers remained poor in the second winter period when 3 Kelling WM Dec 7th, Southrepps

Dec 17th and Titchwell Dec 3rd, two Burnham Deepdale Nov 27th and Langford Nov 5th, singles Algarsthorpe, Blakeney, Brancaster Hbr, Breydon, Buxton Heath, Cantley Marshes, Cley, Hellesdon, Holme, Horsey, Marsham, Mundesley, Potter Heigham, Roydon Common, Thornham and Titchwell.

SNIPE (Common Snipe) *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

Nominate form fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant and scarce and declining breeder. Iceland, Faeroes and Orkney and Shetland form *faeroensis* (Faeroe Snipe) may also occur. Amber List (nominate).

In first winter period sites with more than 30 birds: *Jan* 107 Burnham Norton, 44 Ouse Washes and 40 Winterton; *Feb* 38 Burnham Deepdale, 53 Holme, 32 Welney and 40 Winterton; *March* 53 Holme, 30 Ouse Washes. Cold weather in Jan found 15 behind Anglian Water pumping station Wighton 3rd, feeding on road verge Weybourne 10th and another dead on verge Cockthorpe. In spring 5 south Hunstanton March 18th.

'Drumming' birds: 31 Welney, 17 Mid-Yare RSPB, 7 Berney, 4 Roydon, 2 Holkham NNR, Cley, Hickling, Holme and Lopham Fen.

Westerly/southerly passage over coastal sites in autumn mid-July to mid-Nov, best site Scolt Head: *July* 3 18th and 13 27th; *Aug* 24 6th, 106 13th, 35 17th and 201 29th; *Sept* 66 7th; *Oct* 22 10th. Elsewhere: Holme 28 west Aug 29th, 187 Sept 19th, 70 Blakeney Point, 24 Sheringham Aug 29th and 20 south Hunstanton Sept 23rd.

Counts of over 30 in autumn/second winter period: *Sept* 44 Blakeney Point, 30 Holme, 40 Welney; *Oct* 35 Breydon/Berney, 270 Cantley BF; *Nov* 3000 (many 'wisps' of several hundred birds) Burnham Deepdale, 30 Kelling WM; *Dec* 48 Blakeney GM, 34 Cantley Marshes, 60 Potter Heigham, 180 Repps-with-Bastwick, 38 Stiffkey Fen. The above influx at Burnham Deepdale was most notable, the previous county record of 1200 at Breydon in Jan 1988 being almost trebled! Cold weather again in Dec produced 12 Hopton (on beach) 3rd, 2 Cley village green 7th and 8 west Burnham Overy 16th (2 of which were with Starlings).

WOODCOCK (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor and scarce breeder. Amber List.

Widespread in both winter periods when records from at least 169 sites. Highest counts Jan when cold weather influx into county produced 100 out of Waveney Forest onto Haddiscoe Marshes 6th, 64 Paston Jan 7th with 71 there next day, 37 Stiffkey, 35 Fritton Marshes, 30 Burnham Deepdale, 26 Blakeney GM, 25 Stanford TA, 24 Winterton, 22 Repps-with-Bastwick, Swafield and Northrepps, 20 Chedgrave Marshes and Hickling Stubb Mill, 19 Gorleston, 12 Caister GC and Overstrand, 11 Holme, 10 Felthorpe and Hellesdon, and large numbers also present Cromer, East Runton, Sparham and West Runton. Best counts during rest of winter months: 52 Cley Feb, 50 Kelling Dec, 30 Burnham Deepdale Dec, 29 Friary Hills Feb, 25 Wiveton Feb, 22 Blakeney GM March, 17 Holkham Feb, 16 Hickling Feb and Upton March, 14 Holme Dec, 12 Ringstead Courtyard Farm Feb and Costessey Dec.

A late spring migrant Blakeney Point May 7th.

'Roding' birds during the breeding season: 4 Great Hockham, Hilborough, Holt Country Park/ Lowes, 4 Horning, Hoveton Park, 2 Ickburgh, Kelling Heath, Lopham Fen, 3 Lynford, Marsham Heath, Potter Heigham, 2 Ranworth Flood/Ward Marsh, Repps-with-Bastwick, Roydon Common, Sculthorpe Moor, Sutton Fen, 7 Swaffham Heath and Upton Fen. Recorded from an additional 16 sites April-July, all probably breeding localities.

In autumn first migrant Blakeney Point Sept 27th, but no others until Oct when small coastal arrival 10th-15th when 3 Blakeney Point and 1-2 Holme, Stiffkey, Wiveton and Yarmouth. Small numbers continued to arrive during rest of Oct including several in off the sea, followed by another influx Nov 7th/8th when 7 Stiffkey, 4 Holme, 3 Waxham and 1-2 Titchwell, Brancaster, Burnham Overy Dunes, Warham, Blakeney Point, Kelling WM and Sheringham. Smaller numbers continued to arrive at coastal sites till late Nov including one seen coming in off the sea Kelling 17th only to be taken by a Peregrine.

Woodcock (*James McCallum*)

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Icelandic form *islandica* (Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit) a fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Nominate European and British form (Continental Black-tailed Godwit) a very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List (*islandica*) and Red List (nominate). WeBS threshold for international importance 470. WeBS threshold for national importance 150.

Peak monthly counts at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	3	1	210	1750	460	130	1000	1910	1210	895	12	-
Holme	2	4	40	176	65	25	203	80	44	41	6	8
Titchwell	12	5	80	80	51	243	149	48	45	5	50	30
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	17	17	26	10	120	45	120	185	78	51	10	2
Holkham NNR	1	2	-	2	350	279	230	123	56	21	34	4
Stiffkey Fen/SM	-	-	11	300	-	-	-	102	135	85	78	12
Blakeney Hbr/GM	15	50	14	38	18	50	18	8	19	2	1	139
Cley	271	146	180	143	308	238	184	274	359	345	298	328
Salthouse/Kelling	-	2	-	132	120	19	6	4	12	20	1	-
Breydon/Berney	670	290	955	820	217	226	319	446	320	524	2329	2121
Buckenham/Cantley	5	-	40	-	43	1	-	8	50	17	-	-
Welney	38	609	3000	3500	44	23	-	-	8	74	693	-

Additional coastal counts: Admiralty Point 700 March, 440 July, 750 Aug, North Wootton Marsh 30 April, 330 June, 110 July, Burnham Deepdale 60 July, Burnham Overy Hbr 94 July, 48 Aug and Wells Hbr 46 Oct.

All significant coastal movements were at Weybourne where 105 high southeast April 25th and 60 southeast May 14th.

Extra inland counts: 609 Ouse Washes (Norfolk) Feb 1st and 450 March 17th, 40 Buckenham Marshes March 25th, 180 Geldeston Feb 16th, 36 Methwold Fens Jan 18th, 25 Whitlingham CP Sept 23rd, 24 Wissington BF June 29th and 14 Aug 8th, 10 Strumpshaw May 14th, and 1-5 Chedgrave Marshes, Earsham GP, Nar Valley Fisheries, Northwold Fen, Repps-with-Bastwick and Thorpe Marshes Haddiscoe.

Small numbers of nominate *limosa* reported with at least 8 different adults Cley during June and 9 in July including a juv on 2nd. Only other a female Holme April 25th-May 26th which seen several times looking for suitable nesting sites.

Four pairs bred at the usual Fenland site, 2 of which successfully fledged young.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Nominate Scandinavian and west Siberian form a common winter visitor. North-central Siberian form *taymyrensis* a fairly common passage migrant. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 1200. WeBS threshold for national importance 620.

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	1800	657	1200	170	937	250	522	3000	85	4860	2781	540
Holme	930	3208	4516	414	230	250	50	202	6510	10115	3000	3200
Titchwell	30	233	1	-	-	750	200	221	186	82	23	116
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	213	245	213	80	80	300	375	245	263	235	215	250
Wells Hbr	350	500	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	5	1	4
Stiffkey SM	149	610	276	84	13	-	-	-	70	-	-	-
Blakeney Hbr	125	14	19	33	15	20	51	28	80	32	273	189
Cley	-	1	20	4	13	55	66	3	19	8	5	10
Breydon/Berney	104	118	112	19	30	7	3	21	25	28	60	116

The Oct count at Holme was probably one of the highest if not the highest ever and must have included most of the Wash population at that time. More than usual also over-summered along the north coast during June.

Highest counts elsewhere: Admiralty Point 145 Jan, 750 March, 65 July, 124 Aug, Hunstanton 200 March and 60 Burnham Overy Hbr Oct.

Westerly passage offshore from June 20th, best counts 22 Scolt Head June 23rd, 73 Scolt Head July 20th, 49 Sheringham Aug 7th, 27 Scolt Head, 30 Salthouse, 19 Kelling 13th, 67 Scolt Head and 28 Sheringham 23rd, 10 Cromer 29th, 28 Scolt Head 30th, 52 Scolt Head, 80 Sheringham and 46 Mundesley Sept 7th, 56 Scolt Head 8th, 40 Sheringham and 87 Mundelsey 9th, 29 Mundesley 10th and 28 Mundesley 13th.

In second winter period 60 east Sheringham Dec 2nd probably in response to cold weather.

Fewer inland records this year, with one Hickling Rush Hills Jan 24th, singles north over Norwich May 5th, Nar Valley Fisheries July 18th, Cantley BF and Limpenhoe Marshes Aug 27th-Sept 17th with a peak of 4 Sept 12th.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Nominate British and Scandinavian form and Icelandic form *islandicus* fairly common passage migrants. Red List.

Peak counts of grounded/feeding flocks at main sites:

	Apr	*May*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
Snettisham	14	10	2	-	2
Holme	10	4	3	45	6
Titchwell	14	15	16	5	1
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	51	20	39	68	12
Blakeney Hbr/Point	31	26	25	103	6
Breydon/Berney	116	110	6	15	1

First of spring Winterton April 4th, followed by birds at Breydon, Hickling Broad, Scolt Head and Welney 9th, Eccles and Strumpshaw Fen 11th.

Additional spring coastal flocks 17 Burnham Norton April 21st, 8 Winterton 23rd, 12 Burnham Overy 26th, 9 Morston and 16 Cley 27th, 9 Waxham 29th and in May 18 Waxham 3rd, 14 Winterton 4th and 8 Kelling 21st.

Overhead passage in spring typically much lighter than autumn with 12 west Holkham and 27

west Sheringham April 20th, 32 west Scolt Head and 24 north Hopton 22nd, 11 west Stiffkey 25th and 21 east Scolt Head May 8th.

Numerous inland records during spring. In April 5 Burnham Market 21st, 54 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 22nd and 72 28th, up to 19 Roydon Common 26th-29th, 16 Hickling Broad 28th, and in May 28 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 1st and 18 6th, 12 Roydon Common 1st and 11 4th, 5 Setchey 13th and 1-2 during spring at Blackborough End Tip, Brundall, Buckenham Marshes, Hockham, Hoe Rough, Pentney GP, Potter Heigham, Strumpshaw Fen and Welney.

Spring passage continued until mid-June though numbers small apart from 8 Blakeney Point 10th with perhaps final birds of spring Scolt Head 13th and Breydon 14th. Though hard to be sure of first returning migrants during June, small numbers appeared from 18th with 1-2 mostly west at 6 sites.

Few other settled birds away from sites listed in table during autumn, with 15 North Wootton Marsh and 11 Salthouse July and in Aug 15 Admiralty Point, 30 Brancaster and 28 Warham SM.

Excellent numbers noted moving west during the autumn, in July 28 Scolt Head 20th, 77 Cley 23rd, 60 Holme 26th, 53 Scolt Head 28th, 19 south Happisburgh 29th and in Aug 30 Brancaster 5th, 31 Holme, 90 Scolt Head and 196 Cley 5th, 23 Sheringham and 26 East Runton 7th, 112 Scolt Head 14th, 35 Scolt Head 15th, 33 Scolt Head and 22 Eccles 23rd, 48 Holme, 68 Scolt Head, 11 Kelling and 72 southeast Horsey 27th. Passage had largely finished by Sept when best counts 16 Scolt Head 1st, 10 Holme 2nd, 11 Wells East Hills 4th and 11 Cley 7th.

In contrast to spring very few inland birds during autumn: 12 Cantley BF/Limpenhoe Marshes and 5 Potter Heigham in Aug and 1-2 Burnham Market, Hoveton, Langham, North Creake and Pentney GP.

Very few after end of Sept with singles Blakeney Point Oct 9th, Burnham Overy Dunes 11th, Wells 12th and last of year Morston Nov 13th.

CURLEW (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata arquata*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 1500.

Monthly max at main sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	850	329	279	334	139	-	630	1200	1360	1345	600	-
Holme	240	180	153	90	22	35	36	143	271	270	138	332
Thornham	2	28	11	7	-	-	40	1	163	7	8	-
Titchwell	-	16	37	53	-	-	-	200	75	77	65	72
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	545	690	520	420	40	220	1123	1077	903	722	650	557
Holkham NNR	125	175	106	41	7	8	7	-	27	239	99	113
Warham SM	48	51	52	14	4	-	14	88	47	150	73	16
Wells Hbr	42	92	19	55	6	-	46	17	43	97	48	25
Stiffkey SM	106	177	74	51	9	-	-	-	102	1	7	-
Blakeney GM	65	120	40	5	1	5	-	117	4	22	43	150
Blakeney Hbr	193	38	69	119	71	53	241	237	500	287	128	158
Cley	20	155	62	45	1	26	22	24	33	84	66	91
Salthouse/Kelling	24	49	67	46	1	-	-	-	11	21	49	47
Breydon/Berney	529	629	1014	244	43	78	322	817	923	712	709	1320

Highest counts elsewhere: Admiralty Point 370 Jan, 677 July, 1500 Aug, North Wootton Marshes 400 Aug, 140 Sept, Burnham Deepdale 103 Feb, 88 March and 40 Oct.

As usual many inland feeding flocks, usually on stubble or winter cereal, all of which return to the coast to roost: 300 Anmer Nov, 220 Brancaster Thompson Farms Oct, 56 Wighton Dec, 50 Bawsey March and 40 Castle Rising March.

Excellent numbers on inland grazing marshes during year with 115 How Hill Reedham Marshes

and 55 Claxton Marshes Jan and at Cantley BF/Limpenhoe Marshes 40 July, 73 Aug, 112 Sept and 100 Oct.

During April vocal flocks noted departing northeast especially over Scolt Head where 40 16th, 556 17th, 87 20th, 151 22nd and 65 23rd. Also 35 north Hunstanton April 17th and 37 21st.

Breeding pairs: 12 Stanford TA, 3-4 Brettenham Heath, 2 Bodney, Croxton Heath, Grime's Graves and Roydon Common and singles Fowlmere, Ickburgh, Langford and Westmere.

Returning migrants began moving west from June 15th, largest movements during summer/autumn 35 Scolt Head June 18th, 73 23rd and 43 24th, 11 Kelling 25th, 29 Scolt Head and 20 Sheringham July 1st, 30 Sheringham 4th, 30 Scolt Head 20th, 25 Sheringham 25th, 25 Scolt Head and 14 Weybourne Aug 28th, 13 West Runton Aug 30th, 11 Kelling Sept 5th and 22 Weybourne 7th.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

In first winter period single Stiffkey Fen Jan 1st, then not recorded until first spring bird April 10th, then up to 4 at 40 sites to end May with peaks of 19 Breydon/Berney, 5 Stiffkey Fen May 9th and 6 Scolt Head 15th. In June single Nar Valley Fisheries 16th, 2 Cley 24th and 29th and single West Walton June 30th.

In July up to 6 at 24 sites with peaks of 8 Scolt Head/Brancaster Harbour 10th, 15 Titchwell and 10 Cley 14th, 9 Blakeney Harbour 16th, 25 Holme 23rd and 15 Wissington BF 28th. Passage continued Aug/Sept with up to 6 at 44 sites and peaks of 12 Blakeney Point Aug 5th, 29 Scolt Head/Brancaster Harbour, 17 Ranworth Broad, 15 Titchwell and 11 Barton Broad 14th, 7 Cantley BF 20th, 18 Snettisham and 8 Trowse 27th, 10 Wissington BF and 9 North Wootton Marsh Sept 12th. In Oct singles North Wootton Marsh 3rd, Snettisham 10th and Stiffkey Fen 11th. In Nov singles Wissington BF 10th (to Dec 25th) and Snettisham 29th, also single West Walton Dec 8th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

Recorded at 22 sites in first winter period - a fairly typical showing - mainly singles apart from 4 Hindolveston Jan 31st-Feb 1st. Spring passage in March/April at 41 sites, mostly singles apart from 3 Stiffkey Fen April 10th and 5 there 17th, 4 Thorpe St. Andrew 16th and 3 Thorpe Whitlingham Marshes 17th. In May singles at 5 sites to mid-month.

Monthly peaks at most frequently counted locations:

	Jun	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*
Holme	4	6	10	4	1
Holkham NNR	5	28	15	1	-
Stiffkey Fen	-	11	15	8	2
Cley	3	12	10	3	2
Salthouse	-	1	1	1	1
Hickling	2	2	5	-	-
Cantley BF	8	36	41	14	3
Wissington BF	1	-	23	12	1

Elsewhere, widespread in summer/early autumn with up to 3 at 65 sites and peaks of 4 North Wootton Marsh June 30th and July 2nd, 4 Titchwell July 18th, 12 Burnham Norton 19th, 5 Sculthorpe Moor 23rd, 10 Walsoken and 6 Nar Valley Fisheries Aug 8th, 9 Blakeney Harbour 13th, 8 Dereham Rush Meadow 14th, 18 Titchwell 15th, 11 Burnham Norton 17th, 13 Earsham GP 23rd and 4 North Creake 26th. From Sept to Nov up to 2 recorded at 36 sites with a peak of 3 Earsham GP Oct 30th and singles at 8 sites in Dec.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

In first winter period fairly low numbers at traditional locations: Holme-Burnham Norton (singles except for 12 Titchwell and 6 Thornham March), also 2 Cley-Kelling and single Blakeney Harbour March. Mostly singles in April/May but 4 Titchwell throughout April, 7 Holkham NNR 19th, 7 Breydon/Berney May 6th/7th and 7 Burgh Castle 8th. Inland, single Welney April 10th-25th.

Return passage from mid-June when 6 Titchwell 16th.

Monthly peak counts at favoured locations:

	Jun	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Snettisham	4	25	33	20	21
Thornham/Titchwell	11	32	15	14	8
Blakeney/Salthouse	8	10	15	8	2
Breydon/Berney	3	4	3	6	7

Elsewhere, singles at 15 mostly north coast locations with peaks of 3 Nar Valley Fisheries Aug 29th, 3 Blakeney Point Sept 4th and 3 Stiffkey Fen 29th.

In second winter period singles at 9 sites including Holme/Titchwell (14 Nov, 6 Dec), Blakeney Harbour (2 Dec), Cley/Salthouse (2 Dec) and Breydon/Berney (7 Nov, 1 Dec).

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** 8 Breydon April 3rd 2009.

GREENSHANK (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce passage migrant. Green List. Threshold for national importance 6.

Recorded in first winter period at Brancaster Harbour/Scolt Head (2 Jan, 1 Feb), also singles Blakeney/Morston Feb 19th and Burnham Deepdale 21st.

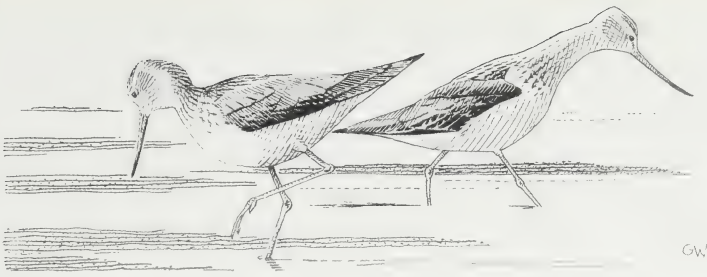
Spring passage from April 3rd with up to 2 at 26 sites and peaks of 7 Welney April 14th, 3 Snettisham 25th, 5 Cley 27th, 4 Welney 28th, 25 Breydon/Berney and 14 Methwold Fens 30th and 9 Welney May 8th, 45 Breydon/Berney 10th, 3 Scolt Head 16th, 3 Holkham NNR 18th, 3 Titchwell June 9th and 14th and 7 Cley 30th.

In autumn peaks at frequently counted sites:

	Jul	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Snettisham	27	24	9	4
Holme	7	10	8	6
Thornham/Titchwell	15	20	6	12
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	23	59	35	18
Burnham Deepdale/Norton	4	13	23	29
Stiffkey SM	2	16	30	18
Blakeney Hbr	35	10	10	4
Cley/Salthouse	8	19	19	4
Hickling Broad	1	1	-	-
Breydon/Berney	6	9	16	1
Cantley BF	1	9	3	-

Elsewhere fairly widespread, mostly singles or up to 6 except for 8 West Runton Aug 13th, 17 Admiralty Point 14th and 11 Hopton and 16 Warham 16th.

In second winter period singles at up to 8 north coast sites and peaks of 8 Burnham Norton Nov 7th and 4 Stiffkey Fen 8th. Last of year Burnham Norton Dec 27th.



Greenshank (*Gary Wright*)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*
Very rare vagrant.
Wissington BF April 29th (A&CB, CD).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*
Very scarce passage migrant. Amber List.
First of the year singles Pentney GP and Hardley Flood April 17th, followed by single Strumpshaw Fen and 2 Hickling Broad 25th increasing to 4 26th-28th. By month end singles at 3 other sites and 3 Cley 29th. May passage, mostly singles, at 19 sites, max 7 Hickling Rush Hills 3rd, 3 Holkham GM 11th, 4 Kelling WM 12th, 3 Berney and 3 Burnham Norton 18th and last of spring 2 Pensthorpe 22nd. A single Burnham Overy GM was heard in song-flight May 12th.

Return passage from June 13th with singles at 4 sites in month, max 3 Welney 27th/28th. Steady passage in Aug/Sept with up to 3 at 17 sites and peaks of 8 Hickling Rush Hills Aug 7th, 6 Cley 11th and 4 Titchwell July 16th and Aug 16th. Fewer in Sept with up to 2 at 4 sites and 3 Stiffkey Fen Sept 2nd-4th and 3 Cantley BF 14th. Last Stiffkey Fen Sept 22nd.

REDSHANK (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*
Nominate British and continental form a common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Icelandic form *robusta* (Icelandic Redshank) a common passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List (both forms). WeBS threshold for national importance 1200.
Peak counts recorded as follows:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	162	421	38	468	45	-	19	1590	1730	1910	344	15
Holme	345	129	129	90	14	10	54	85	130	143	296	356
Titchwell	51	42	64	10	4	2	69	70	17	52	76	83
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	-	255	231	420	177	180	849	1057	493	417	357	450
Burnham Overy Hbr	99	25	36	42	-	23	19	57	18	30	25	59
Wells Hbr	18	37	30	12	8	-	-	-	58	20	11	-
Warham SM	34	26	36	21	3	-	-	30	67	63	49	-
Blakeney Hbr	130	128	162	97	51	68	131	87	159	154	177	268
Cley	50	62	55	49	48	48	36	128	130	125	50	55
Breydon/Berney	320	735	1124	1120	190	170	544	957	980	890	780	411

Highest counts elsewhere: *Jan* 70 Holkham Bay, 32 Thornham Hbr; *Feb* 69 Blakeney Point, 50 Holkham GM, 26 Thornham Hbr; *March* 95 Blakeney Point, 80 North Wootton Marsh, 44 Welney; *April* 60 Blakeney Point, 54 Holkham NNR, 26 Thornham Harbour; *May* 62 Holkham NNR, 44 Burnham Norton; *June* 51 Holkham NNR, 45 Welney, 44 Burnham Norton; *July* 356 Admiralty Point, *Aug* 389 Ousemouth, 100 North Wootton Marsh; *Sept* 156 Stiffkey; *Oct* 169 Admiralty Point; *Nov* 58 Blakeney Point, 40 Welney; *Dec* 177 Blakeney Point, 70 Brancaster.

Breeding data incomplete but total approx 650 pairs: 130 Snettisham, 9 Ken Hill Marsh, 99 Scolt Head, 5 Burnham Deepdale, 80 Holkham NNR, 17 Cley, 10+ Blakeney Point, 130 Berney, 57 Mid-Yare RSPB, 103 Welney and 1 Ludham.

Autumn passage (all west except where stated): *Aug* 55 Scolt Head 6th, 135 7th, 133 14th, 35 21st and 49 23rd, 50 in from north Cley 19th, 65 Mundesley 19th, 163 Sheringham 19th and 58 there 22nd, 46 east Kelling WM 22nd, 50 Cley 23rd, 22 south Hopton 24th, 65 east Weybourne 24th; *Sept* 32 Mundesley 13th.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** A striking leucistic individual Breydon July 10th 2009 was seen in The Netherlands in August.

TURNSTONE (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres interpres*

Birds from the Greenland and north-east Canadian population fairly common winter visitors. Birds from the Scandinavian population fairly common passage migrants. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 500.

Peak monthly counts at main locations:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham	19	28	26	269	187	-	50	505	221	17	70	50
Holme	115	111	111	40	4	-	24	24	68	108	21	90
Thornham Hbr	-	16	-	2	68	-	-	11	362	-	8	1
Titchwell	-	46	3	-	104	2	-	6	7	15	29	11
Scolt/Brancaster Hbr	156	146	149	219	335	65	229	403	2	217	215	188
Wells Hbr	-	13	8	2	5	-	-	-	6	18	12	-
Blakeney Point	100	47	85	43	87	33	30	40	30	48	120	82
Blakeney Hbr	179	86	62	43	61	4	29	132	63	72	104	121
Cley	8	15	29	17	10	2	3	19	4	8	20	23
Salthouse	30	50	52	4	-	-	-	16	-	9	28	20
Walcott	38	35	53	47	-	-	-	20	-	37	40	28

All other counts over 20 individuals: *Feb* 41 Brancaster Hbr, 25 Sheringham; *March* 62 Admiralty Point, 38 Cromer, 29 Hopton; *Aug* 50 Old Hunstanton; *Sept* 61 Stiffkey Fen; *Nov* 23 Brancaster; *Dec* 21 Gorleston.

Visible migration mainly confined to autumn: 24 east Holme and 229 west Scolt Head July 17th, 20 west Scolt Head Aug 23rd and 5 west 28th, 4 west Cley Sept 20th.

Inland a similar number of records to 2009, all are listed (singles unless otherwise stated): Ouse Washes March 14th, Welney May 8th and 2 18th, Northwold Fen May 16th-17th and 2 29th, Thorpe St. Andrew May 24th, 3 Wissington BF Aug 13th, 2 Earsham GP 27th and 2 Cantley BF Sept 13th.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor*

Very rare vagrant.

First-winter Welney Oct 2nd-12th (JCS *et al.*).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

Very scarce passage migrant. Red List.

A good year began with a single Hickling Broad June 2nd and a female Holme 15th. In autumn, juv Berney Aug 24th, Holme Sept 3rd-12th, Stiffkey Fen 25th, juv Kelling WM 26th-Oct 3rd joined by a second Sept 27th (same briefly Cley 29th), juv Cley Oct 3rd-7th and Buckenham Marshes 9th/10th.

GREY PHALAROPE (Red Phalarope) *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Very scarce passage migrant.

In first winter period singles east Holme Jan 10th and Titchwell 24th. A very good showing in autumn with at least 35 recorded at 14 sites though some duplication possible. All records of singles unless

otherwise stated: 2 Cley Sept 25th-28th (may have involved a total of 4 birds), 4 east Cromer Sept 25th, west Holme 26th, Kelling WM 26th/27th, Thornham Point 27th, Titchwell 27th-30th and 2 28th, Burnham Overy Dunes 28th- Oct 7th, Cley Oct 16th-22nd, Kelling WM and east Salthouse 17th, west Holme and 3 west Mundesley 20th, 1-2 Cley 24th/25th and 2 to Nov 3rd, singles Caister, east Sheringham and another Cromer 24th, west Holme and west Kelling Hard/Salthouse/Cley beach 30th, Cley Nov 5th, west Titchwell 6th, east Sheringham 7th, Cley 10th/11th, Burnham Overy Dunes 16th, east Kelling WM 17th, Holkham GM 23rd, Walcott Dec 4th, Brancaster Hbr and Cley 7th and flying southwest inland Burnham Overy Dunes 16th.

POMARINE SKUA (Pomarine Jaeger) *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce, occasionally fairly common, passage migrant in autumn. Green List.

Single record in first winter period at Holme Jan 18th but perhaps more surprising was a mid-summer record of a 2nd/3rd summer east at Sheringham June 19th.

First of autumn Cley Aug 8th followed by records on 6 subsequent dates by month end, all of 1-2 until 4 Holme 29th and 3 Cley 30th. Recorded on 13 dates in Sept but only Sept 24th produced counts in excess of 3 birds with 5 Holme, 10 Blakeney Point and 11 Sheringham.

Oct started disappointingly with no reports until mid-month after which a series of small movements in northerly winds from 16th when 7 Holme, 14 Cley, 11 Sheringham and 14 Cromer and 20th when 11 Holme, 12 Cley, 8 Sheringham and 4 Cromer. Thereafter, 4 consecutive days of passage Oct 23rd-26th and the highest counts of the year: *23rd* 9 Sheringham; *24th* 9 Holme, 4 Salthouse, 23 Sheringham, 13 Cromer and 7 Mundesley; *25th* 9 Holme, 8 Cley, 9 Sheringham and finally *26th* 7 Hunstanton.

Recorded on 5 dates in first half of Nov with notable counts early in the month: *6th* 4 Thornham Point and 6 Titchwell; *7th* 9 Holme; *9th* 5 Cley and *10th* 13 Cley, 18 Sheringham and 6 Mundesley. Numbers dropped during second half of Nov (records on just 4 dates) and first half of Dec (3 dates) with no count exceeding 2 birds. A final movement of 15 Sheringham Dec 23rd was the only sighting in the last 2 weeks of the year.

Inland: juv at western end of Breydon Water on the flats adjacent to the confluence of the rivers Yare and Waveney Oct 16th.

ARCTIC SKUA (Parasitic Jaeger) *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fairly common passage migrant in autumn. Red List.

No reports in first winter period, the first 3 Holme April 13th followed by a small scatter of records from north and northeast coasts until May 31st all involving 1-2 birds apart from 4 east Mundesley May 2nd. Three north Yarmouth June 16th and one inland at Breydon same day.

First of autumn Titchwell July 1st with 3 further reports in first half of month before a clear increase and peaks of 8 Holme July 26th and Scolt Head/Brancaster next day.

Heaviest passages as usual noted in Aug when many counts of 20+ individuals on days of northerly winds: *8th* 26 Holme, 25 Sheringham; *15th* 22 Scolt Head, 29 Cley, 115 Sheringham and 30 Mundesley; *16th* 84 Sheringham. After a 7-day break further significant counts late in the month: *23rd* 20 Scolt Head, 20 Cley and 43 Sheringham; *27th* 47 Holme, 51 Scolt Head, 33 Sheringham and 38 Mundesley; *29th* 30 Holme, 55 Scolt Head, 31 Blakeney Point, 43 Cley, 22 Kelling Hard, 75 Sheringham, 56 Cromer and 22 Mundesley; *30th* 112 Holme, 69 Scolt Head, 26 Blakeney Point, 25 Cley, 40 Sheringham and 22 Mundesley and finally *31st* 26 Hunstanton.

Fewer notable counts in Sept despite dramatic movements of other seabirds at this time (cf Great Skua): *7th* 34 Scolt Head; *16th* 26 Sheringham; *17th* 28 Cley; *18th* 31 Sheringham and *24th* 62 Blakeney Point, 83 Sheringham, 54 Cromer and 26 Mundesley. Very low numbers in first half of Oct and no double-figure counts but later in the month 12 Cley 16th and 18 Sheringham 24th. Continued presence into Nov with 3 Scolt Head 10th but only 2 sightings thereafter: Holme Nov 27th and Titchwell Dec 8th.

LONG-TAILED SKUA (Long-tailed Jaeger) *Stercorarius longicaudus longicaudus*
Very scarce or scarce passage migrant in autumn. Green List.
Good numbers of this species as follows (all juvs unless stated): Blakeney Point Aug 15th (JRMcC, ES) and 27th (AMS *et al.*), Sheringham Aug 27th (NRR, MS *et al.*), 29th (SJW *et al.*) and Sept 18th (NRR *et al.*), Hopton Aug 29th (INS), adult Mundesley Aug 29th (MDF), 30th (MDF) and Sept 16th (MDF), 5 Cley (incl. one adult and one sub-adult) Aug 30th (JRMcC, AMS *et al.*), Sept 8th (AMS), 2 Sept 17th (JRMcC, AMS), 5 Sept 24th (JRMcC, AMS) and Oct 16th (AMS), Gorleston Sept 5th (JG), Eccles Sept 24th (TA, AJK), 25th (TA), 26th (TA, AJK) and Oct 16th (TA, AJK) and Scolt Head Sept 7th (NML).

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*
Fairly common passage migrant in autumn. Amber List.
Early in the year reports from 5 sites on north and Wash coast Jan 1st-7th with max 3 Holme Jan 6th but otherwise very few records during first 6 months of year with only sightings Cley Jan 18th and 24th, Sheringham Feb 3rd and March 8th, Snettisham Feb 4th, Blakeney Point April 24th, Titchwell and Mundesley (2) May 2nd and Scolt Head June 20th.

Presumed first bird of autumn Sheringham July 22nd (2 east) and another next day. No further sightings until July 30th after which intermittent presence offshore and numerous double-figure counts for next 3 months.

Gradual increase in Aug with notable counts as follows: *16th* 10 Holme; *23rd* 15 Scolt Head; *27th* 12 Holme, 30 Scolt Head, 12 Kelling, 35 Sheringham; *29th* 15 Holme, 24 Scolt Head, 35 Cley, 30 Sheringham, 13 Cromer and 14 Mundesley; *30th* 130 Holme, 100 Scolt Head, 50 Cley, 81 Sheringham, 19 West Runton, 34 Cromer and 14 Overstrand.

No further significant numbers until mid-Sept, after which a series of impressive movements: *15th* 11 Mundesley; *16th* 46 Holme, 23 Kelling, 93 Sheringham and 10 Mundesley; *17th* 16 Admiralty Point, Terrington and 71 Holme; *24th* 118 Holme, 411 Blakeney Point, 500 Cley, 627 Sheringham, 360 Cromer and 81 Mundesley; *25th* 20 Holme, 22 Titchwell, 33 Cley, 92 Sheringham and 10 Cromer; *26th* 10 Hunstanton, 47 Holme, 30 Sheringham and 20 Cromer. Sept 24th eclipses the previous highest Norfolk count of 402 Sheringham Sept 23rd 2008.

Another lull saw very few reports until mid-Oct when final movements of autumn on 16th produced 12 Cley and 23 Mundesley and 24th when 12 Sheringham and 10 Mundesley. Very small numbers in Nov: singles on 6 dates during second half of month and 2 Sheringham Nov 25th. In Dec 5 Mundesley 1st and 8 Sheringham 23rd.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini*
Very scarce passage migrant in autumn.
A poor year for this species: adult Scolt Head Aug 13th (NML), adult Winterton Aug 15th (SAW), juv Sheringham Sept 24th (NRR *et al.*) and juv Blakeney Point Sept 26th (PJH).
***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Happisburgh Nov 2nd 2008 (JRA).

KITTIWAKE (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*
Common passage migrant. Amber List.
Fairly low numbers appeared off the coast throughout until the typical late autumn passage, which this year proved relatively unexceptional. Again no inland birds, now for the third year in succession. Table shows peak number at any one locality per month:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
All localities	58	3	1	6	47	7	25	55	428	890	1500	229

A total of 58 Holme Jan 6th and 47 spring passage birds Cley May 7th were the only noteworthy records in the first 6 months. The first juv appeared Hopton July 23rd and Aug saw an increase with 49 (33 east) Scolt Head 13th and 55 Blakeney Point and 34 west Scolt Head 30th. Sept 24th saw 390

Blakeney Point, 428 east Sheringham and 150 Cromer, thereafter 91 Holme Sept 26th. Passage increased in Oct: 164 Cley 14th, 87 Holme, 110 (78 west) Cromer, 361 east Mundesley and 150 Horsey Gap, all 16th, 200 Holme and 100 Sheringham 20th, 150 east Sheringham 23rd and 890 Holme, 123 west Salthouse, 500 east Sheringham and 486 (441 east) Cromer, all 24th. Most passage in Nov on 2 dates: 1500 Cley, 74 Cromer, 250 south Happisburgh and 954 east Mundesley, all 9th, and 200 Weybourne, 121 east Cromer and 1265 east Mundesley, all 10th. Finally a movement of 229 (220 east) Sheringham Dec 23rd.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (Common Black-headed Gull) *Chroicocephalus ridibundus ridibundus*

Very common resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for international importance 20000. WeBS threshold for national importance 19000.

Information on breeding numbers received from 12 localities with number of pairs as follows: 1585 Snettisham, 292 Scolt Head, 14 Burnham Deepdale, 1526 Holkham NNR, 1800 Blakeney Point, 57 Cley, 15 Hickling, 27 Breydon, 227 Mid-Yare RSPB, 1 Sparham Pools, 180 Wissington BF and 35 Nar Valley Fisheries. Breeding success appeared to vary considerably between sites with many young reported from Blakeney Point, 7 young Burnham Deepdale but in contrast none observed Scolt Head or Cley. Two regularly counted sites produced the following monthly maxima:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Scolt Head	2700	1200	5000	2850	400	-	-	5000	6000	-	-	-
Blackborough End Tip	2000	2000	1200	100	50	60	-	-	-	500	1000	2500

Concentrations elsewhere: 1500 Methwold Fens Jan 18th, 2200 offshore Cley Jan 31st, 5000 Narford Feb 14th, 2264 Blakeney Harbour May 17th, 2228 Blakeney Point May 17th, 3916 Blakeney Harbour June 16th, 2395 Ranworth Broad Oct 10th and 2800 Wroxham Broad Oct 17th.

Scolt Head picked up the first signs of post-breeding dispersal/immigration in June when 35 23rd, 139 27th, 113 28th and 61 29th, all moving west. Visible passage peaked in July with 8986 through the month including 1623 9th. Continued westerly movement produced 185 Aug 3rd, 564 9th, 646 20th and 334 Sept 7th, also 554 west Holme Sept 21st.

Several leucistic individuals noted: 2cy Blackborough End Tip March 6th, Rollesby Broad March 21st, an 'all white' bird Holkham Park lake April 3rd, Swanton Morley GP April 4th, Breydon May 20th and Blackborough End Tip Dec 18th. Also a bird with all white primaries visited Strumpshaw Fen Sept 30th.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Fairly common passage migrant. Amber List.

As usual numbers peaked offshore in Oct-Nov, though visible passage was largely unexceptional throughout. Inland birds during winter (always scarce): Whitlingham CP Jan 4th and Burgh Castle Feb 20th. A movement of 51 (46 3cy/ad) east through Breydon April 24th was notable, though spring passage was otherwise not heavy. Records of 1-5 at 10 inland sites April 7th-May 23rd (c26 individuals in total) with peaks of 5 Strumpshaw Fen April 25th and 4 Pentney GP April 28th. Few 2cy birds remained into June but 7 Titchwell 5th and 21st and an inland bird Hickling Broad 3rd-6th. Noted offshore in small numbers Aug-Sept with the first juv Hopton Aug 24th. Only 4 dates witnessed passage of any note Oct-Nov: 200 west Sheringham and 60 Cromer Oct 24th, 65 east Sheringham Nov 1st, 415 east Sheringham and 141 east Mundesley Nov 6th, 100 east Cley and Sheringham and 70 east Mundesley Nov 10th.

Inland a single Northrepps Nov 6th.

Table shows largest count at any one locality each month:

Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
5	2	1	51	3	7	9	7	18	200	416	13

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Scarce all-year visitor and very scarce breeder. Amber List.

11-12 pairs were spread between 3 coastal sites. Success was high at 1 locality where 5 fledged a minimum of 16 young. Juvs again prominent in July/Aug with a peak of 32 Breydon Aug 27th, while several noted moving west along the north coast during this period. Estimated number of individuals per month:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	37	-	-	-	-
1st-year	11	-	14	6	4	7	4	3	24	17	5	5
2nd-year	4	-	4	3	4	8	12	1	-	1	-	1
Adult	37	4	7	12	22	28	41	14	3	12	4	5
Unaged	9	55	39	19	12	-	38	258	294	92	51	68
Total	61	59	64	40	42	43	124	313	321	122	60	79

Relatively low numbers at Breydon until an increase July, then exceptional numbers roosting Aug-Sept providing record counts for the county. Peak monthly counts: 5 Feb 15th, 3 March 11th, 4 April 1st, 3 June 26th, 39 July 24th, 293 Aug 27th, 309 Sept 30th, 18 Oct 4th and 48 Dec 5th. The Yarmouth beach flock produced counts as follows: 49 Jan 30th, 51 Feb 21st, 35 March 7th, 15 July 23rd, 106 (site record) Oct 15th, 47 Nov 20th and 70 Dec 27th. Nearby at Hopton 29 July 31st and 19 Caister airfield Sept 25th. The north coast hosted concentrations of 14 Snettisham March 12th, 16 there April 23rd and 26 Blakeney Harbour July 16th. Small numbers widely reported from 36 inland localities with a max of 4 Great Ryburgh May 22nd. Several birds observed hawking insects, often amongst Black-headed Gulls, in the June to Aug period.

COMMON GULL (Mew Gull) *Larus canus*

Nominate form a very common passage migrant and winter visitor and very scarce breeder. Russian form *heinei* may also occur. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 9000.

Three north coast sites held a total of 15 pairs: 1 Scolt Head, 13 Holkham NNR and 1 Blakeney Point. Counts at 2 sites which regularly attract large numbers:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	1500	1700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	860	-
Scolt Head	2300	1200	-	1750	450	45	50	3300	-	-	-	-

Notable flocks elsewhere: 2000 Wroxham Broad Jan 1st, 1000 Bylaugh 10th, 770 offshore Cley 31st, 700 Holkham Park lake Feb 7th, 980 Cley 20th, 500 Brancaster Thompson Farms March 9th, 500 Hainford (pig fields) 10th, 600 Runcton Holme Oct 6th, 645 Holkham Park lake Nov 7th, 2000 Burnham Overy Dunes Dec 9th and 2803 Brancaster Dec 23rd.

Birds were moving very high east in small flocks Scolt Head all day April 17th. Visible offshore westerly passage in summer/autumn was relatively light and only evident off Scolt Head where 813 during July including 469 27th followed by 42 Aug 3rd, 95 Aug 9th and 63 Aug 20th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Western European form *graellsii* (Western Lesser Black-backed Gull) a common summer visitor and scarce breeder. Danish and southern Scandinavian form *intermedius* (Continental Lesser Black-backed Gull) a fairly common passage migrant. Birds showing characters of the northern Scandinavian form *fuscus* (Baltic Gull) noted on a couple of occasions. Amber List (*graellsii*) and Green List (*intermedius*). WeBS threshold for national importance 500.

The only breeding data received was of 80 pairs at Holkham NNR.

Flocks widespread, especially inland in the Aug-Nov period, though no especially large

gatherings recorded: 238 Feltwell Tip Jan 17th, 200 Thetford Nunnery Lakes Feb 10th, 65 Weeting 15th, 114 Wells March 21st, 225 Wells April 17th, 307 Wells May 16th, 320 Newton Flotman Aug 10th, 600 East Wretham Sept 3rd, 420 roosted Hardley Flood 18th, 340 Barford 23rd, 500 Caistor St. Edmund 20th, 100 Breydon 27th and 320 Caistor St. Edmund Nov 1st.

Monthly max at Blackborough End Tip showed the expected (for the locality) spring/early summer peak:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Blackboro' End Tip	5	81	84	236	400	360	300	300	80	38	10	8

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

British form *argenteus* a common passage migrant and winter visitor and fairly common breeder. Nominate northern European form (Scandinavian Herring Gull) a fairly common winter visitor. Red List (*argenteus*) and Amber List (*argentatus*).

A similar (though incomplete) picture to last year as regards breeding numbers with number of pairs as follows: 1 Snettisham, 10 Hunstanton, 2 Scolt Head and 428 Holkham NNR. Regular counts at 4 sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	8000	4000	3000	175	486	568	325	700	1140	901	1186	900
Scolt Head	5000	2335	250	450	1000	125	220	48	-	255	-	-
Wells Hbr	-	-	674	813	1266	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackboro' End Tip	3000	800	800	700	1100	600	800	700	300	2500	2000	3500

It is clear from the above figures that large numbers were present during hard weather in Jan. Further gatherings: 750 Snettisham Jan 3rd, 2500 Nar Valley Fisheries 9th, 1930 offshore Cley 31st, 1240 Snettisham April 17th, 1600 Snettisham May 16th and 627 offshore Cley Dec 11th.

Coastal movement of 321 west Mundesley March 13th and 685 west Scolt Head April 2nd.

A total of 100 *argentatus* Blackborough End Tip Nov 13th was a high figure for the site which also held a leucistic bird Dec 30th.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis michahellis*

Scarce all-year visitor, most common in summer. Amber List.

Overall a fairly typical showing, following the expected pattern, though numbers perhaps a little lower than some years. A large arrival of juvs in July and Aug, particularly evident at Blackborough End Tip where 9 visible at any one time and possibly 10-15 present July 31st. The latter site still held 7 Aug 7th and elsewhere a minimum of 3 occurred at Cley in July and Aug, following the first on July 22nd. Elsewhere a single Wymondham Aug 13th.

Estimates of numbers and age breakdown per month:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Juv	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	11	-	-	-	-
1st-year	4	1	1	1	9	2	4	3	4	4	9	3
2nd-year	-	-	-	3	1	5	-	2	2	-	1	-
3rd-year	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	1
4th-year/adult	11	6	3	1	1	5	10	18	6	5	10	8
Unaged	7	9	-	-	1	1	6	16	19	7	3	3
Total	23	16	5	5	12	13	33	52	31	17	23	15

Highest counts as follows: 6 Feltwell Tip Jan 3rd, 6 Cley July 16th, 13 Blackborough End Tip 31st, 9 Cley Aug 11th, 13 Nar Valley Fisheries 13th, 10 Houghton 19th, 8 Hardley Flood Sept 18th and 6

Blackborough End Tip Dec 16th.

At Yarmouth a pair thought to comprise a Yellow-legged Gull and a hybrid Yellow-legged x Lesser Black-backed Gull raised 2 young.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Scarce all-year visitor.

Good numbers in both winter periods, an arrival of 2cy birds May and a post-breeding influx July-Aug added up to another busy year for this scarce but now regular gull. Recorded from 18 localities (13 inland) involving up to 57 individuals including 33 Blackborough End Tip where a juv occurred Aug 28th. Of those aged, proportions were as follows: 39% first-years, 34% second-years, 9% third years and 18% adult types.

Estimates of number of individuals per month:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
All localities	6	5	5	-	6	2	8	6	2	3	8	6

Blackborough End Tip attracted 5 May 22nd and July 31st, while 4 were counted at the adjacent Nar Valley Fisheries Aug 13th. A 3cy bearing a Polish ring was noted at Earsham GP Feb 17th.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides glaucoides*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Up to 8 individuals represents a decent haul with 5 Jan 2nd-April 19th and 3 Nov 13th-Dec 30th. Of these 5 were in their 1st year, two 2nd year and one 3rd/4th year, with the spread of birds as follows:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
All localities	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1

All records listed: 3cy Blackborough End Tip/Nar Valley Fisheries Jan 2nd-11th, 2cy Hockwold Washes Jan 11th, 2cy Breydon March 19th, 3cy Cley April 16th and 19th, advanced 3cy/retarded 4cy Blackborough End Tip Nov 13th, 1cy west Sheringham Nov 28th and 1cy east Stiffkey Dec 30th.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Nominate form a very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Questionably valid Greenland form *leucerectes* (Greenland Glaucous Gull) may also occur. Amber List.

A good showing, particularly in the second winter period with 12 or more individuals represented throughout. Table shows estimates of number of individuals per month:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
All localities	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	4

At least one (probably more?) 2cy seen at many coastal localities from Holme to Paston Jan 4th-April 3rd, also visited Edgefield Tip Jan 5th-7th. From Oct 23rd several birds recorded as follows: 1cy Eccles and 1cy Blackborough End Tip Oct 23rd, presumed same unaged Wells, Blakeney Point and Cley Oct 30th with at least 3 (2 1cy, 1 2cy) at several coastal sites Blakeney Point-Waxham Nov 10th-12th, 1cy Gorleston Nov 10th, 1cy Blackborough End Tip Nov 20th-Dec 16th, 1cy Cley Nov 29th then perhaps same Salthouse-Titchwell to Dec 22nd (feeding on a dead goose Burnham Overy GM Dec 15th), 1cy Breydon Dec 24th and finally a 2/3cy Cromer Dec 25th.

Glaucous Gull (*James McCallum*)

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Fairly common all-year visitor. Amber List. WeBS threshold for national importance 400.
Monthly max at 3 regular sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Scolt Head	220	125	110	345	35	55	95	215	185	-	-	-
Cley	103	77	123	131	118	-	99	61	87	128	152	245
Blackboro' End Tip	170	15	13	60	25	20	-	100	116	10	79	55

Larger gatherings widespread as follows: 135 Cranwich GP Jan 1st, 160 Snettisham 3rd, 127 Blakeney Harbour 4th, 117 Nar Valley Fisheries 9th, 73 Feltwell Tip 10th, 254 Holme 11th, 90 Blakeney Harbour April 16th, 72 Blakeney Harbour May 17th, 75 Blakeney Harbour June 14th, 82 Titchwell July 16th, 80 North Wootton Marsh Sept 12th, 85 Blakeney Point Sept 13th, 88 Holme Oct 10th, 79 Blakeney Point Nov 8th, 45 Ormesby Reservoir Dec 2nd, 90 Foulden (appearing to roost on a farm reservoir) Dec 5th and 594 roosted Breydon Dec 23rd. The Breydon count was particularly impressive for recent years and occurred on a day of strong northeast winds, perhaps forcing birds off Scroby Sands.

295 west Scolt Head Aug 30th was unusual. A juv Blackborough End Tip July 31st was the earliest ever at the site and 15-20 days earlier than expected.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons albifrons*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.
First Scolt Head April 16th with 28 21st, 33 25th, 45 29th and 100 30th. Elsewhere in April Blakeney Point 21st and 56 24th, Holme 23rd, 8 24th and 37 26th, 10 Horsey and 12 west Sheringham 25th with 3 west there, one Cley and 8 Winterton 26th, 5 west Titchwell 27th, Stiffkey 28th and 2 Cley 29th.

Minimum of 581 breeding pairs fledged at least 178 young, 160 pairs down on 2009 but an increase in productivity.

	No of prs	*Young fledged*
Scolt Head	169	100
Holkham NNR	122	62
(Gun Hill Ridge	36	16)
(Holkham Beach	36	28)
(Stiffkey Little Binks	8	0)
(Stiffkey Big Binks	2	0)
(Stiffkey New East	40	18)
Blakeney Point	75	15+
Caister North Beach	15	1
Yarmouth Scroby Sands	200+	unknown

Low success at Blakeney Point was due to predation by Kestrels and Common Gulls plus visitor

disturbance. Almost complete failure at Caister South Beach due to disturbance despite the colony being fenced off. At Scroby Sands, some 2 miles offshore due east of Yarmouth, 200+ nests completely washed out by high tide on June 18th. At least 80 pairs re-nested by July 5th but outcome not known. This was the first recorded breeding attempt at this site since the mid-1970s due to the sandbank being mostly covered by high tides during the intervening years. Numbers noted early in the season at Yarmouth North Beach but none nested for the first time since this generally highly productive colony was first established and fenced off in 1986. These birds are thought to have nested at Scroby Sands.

Largest midsummer counts in July: 67 south Hopton 12th, 130 Blakeney Hbr 16th and 600 Scolt Head evening roost 28th. 50 west Mundesley 21st was a site high count.

Inland: Pentney GP May 24th. Latest Holme Oct 9th the same date as 2009.

Little Terns (*Gary Wright*)

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger niger*

Scarce passage migrant. Has bred. Amber List.

First of spring 2 Barton Broad and singles Hockwold Washes and Pentney GP April 28th, the latest first arrivals since 1990, and Blakeney Point May 2nd. No noticeable spring passage with just 6 birds recorded, the lowest number since 1975. All records: Pentney GP May 11th/12th, 2 Cley 12th and 2 west 22nd and one Scolt Head 24th. In June singles Attleborough 2nd, east Titchwell 4th and Ranworth Broad 7th. In July Titchwell 10th and 2 east 13th, singles north Hopton 12th, west Sheringham 21st and east Cley 23rd.

A light passage Aug 8th-23rd totalling a max of 18 birds at 9 localities, mainly singles with 2 west Scolt Head 13th and 4 west Sheringham 23rd. Main fairly light autumn passage Aug 27th-Sept 11th totalling a max of 154 birds at 13 localities, mainly 1-5 but 11 west Scolt Head Aug 27th and Sept 6th, 7 west and 28 east Sept 7th, 14 east Sheringham Sept 4th and 10 east 7th, 12 Waxham 7th and 14 Cley 11th. The light passage continued to the end of the month with 1-4 at 11 localities totalling a max of 39 birds. In Oct 4 Blakeney Point and one west Sheringham 1st, singles Cley 2nd, 3rd and 5th, Holme 2nd, 4 south Yarmouth 5th and one Warham SM 10th.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (White-winged Tern) *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Rare vagrant.

Juv Hickling Broad Aug 19th/20th (PJH *et al.*).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First arrivals 3 Cley March 22nd, one 24th, 27th and 2 30th, west Sheringham 25th, 26th and 29th, Salthouse and west Weybourne 27th, 16 Blakeney Point and one Overstrand 28th. Only notable counts in April 150 Blakeney Point 5th and 200 10th, 175 Scolt Head 25th with 200 30th and 897 offshore Cley 30th. In May highest counts 600 Scolt Head all month, 117 west Mundesley 2nd, 2925 Blakeney Point 17th, 1430 west offshore Cley 28th and 338 west Sheringham 30th.

Breeding: At Blakeney Point c2500 pairs fledged 900+ young. At Scolt Head a second

successive total failure where 480 pairs fledged no young due almost entirely to predation by foxes and to a lesser degree by Herring Gulls. The last 4 breeding seasons have seen just 2 young fledged (in 2008) from a total of 2960 breeding pairs at this formerly highly productive colony.

Coastal movements/gatherings of note: 1200 Scolt Head July 29th, 500 Holme Aug 1st and 407 offshore Cley Sept 5th.

Inland: 2 south Welney April 28th (10th site record), Swanton Morley GP May 2nd/3rd and Colney GP June 19th.

Last of autumn singles east Sheringham Oct 25th and east Nov 9th.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First of spring 2 Colney GP April 3rd followed by singles Scolt Head 6th, Sheringham 7th, 2 Wroxham Broad 8th, South Walsham 9th, Filby Broad 13th, Welney 14th, Cley 16th, 18 Barton Broad and 7 Ranworth Broad 17th.

Spring counts of note: 37 Holme April 26th, 60 Scolt Head 26th, 110 28th, 200 30th and 350 throughout May, 34 offshore Cley April 27th, 40 Blakeney Point 28th, 34 Pentney GP May 1st and 45 6th, 68 Barton Broad, 68 Ranworth Broad and 58 Wells Hbr 16th, 52 Blakeney Point 17th, 26 Sparham Pools 18th and 48 20th.

Breeding: At least 780 pairs fledged at least 338 young, with Pentney GP the most productive in terms of fledged young averaging 1.07 per pair. Breydon Water platforms the most productive overall in terms of number of fledged young despite the continuing encroachment of 27 pairs of Black-headed Gulls reducing productivity there.

	No of pairs	*Young fledged*
Snettisham	37	22
Scolt Head	177	80
Holkham NNR	95	61
Blakeney Point	75	23-26
Yarmouth Scroby Sands	40+	unknown
Breydon	173	109
Ranworth Marshes	62	unknown
Upton Marshes	1	1
Barton Broad	35	unknown
Marlingford Mere	18	18
Sparham Pools	c20	16
Pentney GP	28	30
Welney	10	0

Reason for low success at Blakeney Point not known. At Yarmouth Scroby Sands 40+ nests washed away by high tides June 18th/19th. At least 13 pairs re-nested but outcome unknown. Complete failure at Welney thought to be due to predation by large gulls and/or Carrion Crows.

First-summer birds: 2 Breydon June 25th-27th, with one July 11th, 14th, 22nd and 24th. 'Immature' (first or second-summer) birds: Scolt Head June 5th, 28th, 2 July 6th and one 10th.

At Scolt Head 400 present July 29th and max of 135 Aug 20th. Westerly movements there: 99 Aug 4th, 122 13th, 269 14th, 149 15th and 44 23rd. 356 east Sept 7th the only other count of note there. Elsewhere in autumn 90 Holme July 31st with 150 Aug 14th, 112 Ousemouth Aug 14th, 170 28th and 349 south Hopton 29th.

Latest Cley Oct 30th.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** An unusually dark juv Breydon July 22nd 2009.

***CORRECTION*:** The statement in the 2009 Report that 30th March was the earliest known record at Breydon is incorrect.

Common Terns (*Gary Wright*)

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii dougallii*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Has bred. Red List.

An adult Scolt Head Aug 8th and, probably same, Holme 10th. After a good run of records of this very scarce summer visitor, this was the poorest year since 1991 when there were none.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Spring passage commenced with one Colney April 11th, followed by another there and Welney 14th, east Kelling WM 15th, west Mundesley and Welney 16th, Barton Broad 17th, 2 east Holme 18th and 19th, 2 Buckenham 22nd, Pentney GP 23rd, Blakeney Point and 12 east Breydon and 2 east Scolt Head 26th, 2 Titchwell 27th with 3 displaying over the fresh marsh 28th/29th and 2 30th. Main fairly light passage continued to May 17th with only double-figure counts 38 east Holme, 16 Sheringham 3rd, 12 north Weybourne 4th, 13 Pentney GP 6th, 11 east Sheringham 8th, 15 Snettisham and 17 Titchwell 11th and 10 Blakeney Point 17th. 10 Blakeney Point 24th and 8 Holme 30th the only further records to end of month.

Breeding: At Blakeney Point max of 9 pairs fledged no young, reason not known. At Holkham NNR 3 pairs fledged no young. At Scolt Head 4 pairs fledged 4 young. Adults elsewhere in June: singles Cley 4th, 16th and 2 22nd, Sheringham 6th, west 7th and 2 offshore 17th and 2 Holme 20th. 2 west Sheringham July 3rd.

First-summer type birds: Scolt Head July 3rd, 6th and Breydon 27th.

Autumn passage as follows: 17 west Mundesley Aug 15th, 16 east there 27th and 10 east Sept 17th. In Oct mainly singles recorded at 6 localities with 3 Admiralty Point, Terrington 10th and 2 Holme 24th. In Nov singles Holkham Bay 1st, Kelling/Cley 1st-7th and 2 south Waxham 7th.

A winter record of one lingering offshore Cley Dec 7th.

GUILLEMOT (Common Murre) *Uria aalge*

Southern form *albionis* (Southern Guillemot) and nominate northern form (Northern Guillemot) fairly common passage migrants and scarce winter visitors. Arctic form *hyperborea* (Arctic Guillemot) may also occur. Amber List (*albionis* and *aalge*).

Low numbers during first winter period when only reported from north coast (and no double-figure counts) followed by series of notable counts during May in onshore winds. First movement May 2nd when 90 east Scolt Head and 156 Blakeney Point with 50 east Weybourne next day. Subsequently 155 east Scolt Head May 24th and 103 Sheringham (including 85 east) 31st.

As in recent years, continual presence off north coast during mid-summer breeding period with first juv Mundesley July 13th.

First significant movement of autumn Oct 16th when 38 Blakeney Point and 75 east Weybourne followed by 433 Cley Oct 19th. Later in season final sizeable counts over 3-day period in early Nov: 42 east Kelling WM 7th and 1200 Cley 9th.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Western European form *islandica* a fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Nominate Scandinavian form (Northern Razorbill) presumably also occurs. Amber List (*islandica*) and Green List (nominate).

Just 3 records in first 4 months of year, mirroring the scarcity of other auks. In May a series of notable easterly passages: 44 Scolt Head 2nd, 31 Sheringham 7th and 98 Scolt Head 24th.

Several mid-summer encounters, including adult with juv Scolt Head July 21st but in contrast a poor autumn apart from Oct 16th when 228 Holme and 150 Cley. In late autumn, large Guillemot movement not matched by Razorbills, just 9 passing Sheringham Nov 9th (cf Guillemot).

Only one report south of Mundesley all year (Gorleston Sept 26th).

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Breydon June 22nd 2009.

UNIDENTIFIED AUK (Guillemot or Razorbill) *Uria aalge* or *Alca torda*

A clear movement May 2nd-8th when peak counts as follows (all east unless stated): 186 Sheringham, 260 Cromer and 127 Mundesley 2nd, 296 Sheringham 3rd, 129 Sheringham 4th (119 east) and finally 180 Sheringham 8th. Further notable counts from Sheringham May 25th-30th with 126 (including 117 east) 25th and 285 May 30th (including 262 east), when also 108 (85 east) Scolt Head.

In mid-summer 56 east Mundesley June 15th.

Autumn peak counts in period Oct 15th-19th when 354 Sheringham (including 345 east) 15th, 130 Blakeney Point, 3200 Mundesley and 660 south Horsey Gap 16th. The passage concluded with 396 Sheringham Oct 19th (including 390 east).

Two further notable counts: 500 Cley Nov 9th and 149 east Sheringham Dec 23rd.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle arcticus*

A very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.

The second consecutive poor year, with only 2 records: juv west Weybourne Aug 12th, presumed same next day Sheringham, Blakeney Point and Scolt Head, and west Sheringham Nov 7th.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

Nominate Arctic form a scarce, occasionally fairly common, late autumn/early winter visitor. Franz Josef Land form *polaris* (Franz Josef Land Little Auk) may also occur. Green List.

Only one record in first winter period: north Horsey Jan 28th.

Autumn records in pulses, in response to northerly winds: Oct 16th-20th with records Burnham Overy to Mundesley and peak of 6 Cley 16th, Oct 24th-28th with records Holme-Yarmouth and peaks of 13 Cley and 14 Sheringham, both 25th, Nov 7th-10th with records Holme-Gorleston and peaks at Sheringham of 12 Nov 9th and 9 next day and Nov 16th-28th with records from Cley-Mundesley and peak of just 4 Cley 16th. Otherwise, 2 Mundesley Nov 2nd.

Five Dec records from north coast, 4 Dec 10th-16th including one dead Salthouse 13th. Last Kelling Dec 24th.

PUFFIN (Atlantic Puffin) *Fratercula arctica*

A very scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

An average year, all sightings listed. No reports early in year but a continuing trend of breeding season records. Reports at this time from just 2 localities: Blakeney Point May 2nd, 6th (2) and 17th and Sheringham (all east) May 30th, June 25th and July 5th and 20th.

First of autumn west Cley Aug 16th followed by 2 east Scolt Head 30th and singles east Mundesley 17th and west Sheringham 20th. Largest movement in northerly winds Sept 24th/25th when 3 Cley and Sheringham 24th and single Sheringham and 4 Cromer 25th.

Just one record in Oct: 4 east Mundesley 16th followed by 2 in Nov: single east Walcott 7th and another with a huge movement of Guillemots Cley 9th. Final records of year 2 west Mundesley Dec 1st and another next day.

ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON (Common Pigeon) *Columba livia livia*
Common resident. Green List.
Only 6 records received during the year: 400 King's Lynn Docks Jan 10th, 50 Hunstanton 28th and 80 Dereham Church 31st, 50 Mousehold Heath April 3rd, 45 Wroxham Broad Sept 6th and 30 Lenwade Sept 26th. Recorded in 11 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas oenas*
Fairly common resident. Amber List.
Highest counts in first winter period: *Jan* 100 Ringstead Courtyard Farms; *Feb* 85 Weeting, 65 Holme BO; *March* 63 Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 50 Holme.

Small-scale spring passage underway with 2 west Beeston Bump March 13th followed by 12 west there 15th, 8 west 16th and 4 west 24th. Elsewhere during spring 7 north Winterton March 14th, 2 west Cromer GC 21st, 5 west Scolt Head April 2nd, 2 west Cromer GC 4th, 2 west Scolt Head 5th, 1 west Beeston Bump May 14th and 1 in off the sea Sheringham 29th.

Breeding data: 25 pairs Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 2 pairs Roydon, 2 pairs Honingham and single pairs Thornham, Blakeney, Long Stratton and Stanford TA. Recorded in 32 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Highest counts in second winter period all from North Wootton where 30 Sept, 40 Oct and 40 Nov.

WOODPIGEON (Common Wood Pigeon) *Columba palumbus palumbus*
Abundant resident. Green List.
Highest counts in first winter period: *Jan* 3500 Thornham Farms, 1800 Ryston, 1500 Choseley, 1000 Holme, 1000 Brumstead; *Feb* 1603 Little Snoring, 1000 Holme, 1000 Brancaster Thompson Farm; *March* 5000 Thornham, 1500 Brancaster, 1000 Castle Rising; *April* 1000 Holme, 247 Swanton Morley.

Spring movement noted from March 15th with 15 west Beeston Bump followed by 60 west there 16th, 23 west 20 east April 6th and 125 west 31 east May 14th. At Hunstanton a total of 7259 south 58 north March 18th-May 1st with peaks of 472 March 18th,1068 19th, 1387 22nd, 1283 April 3rd and 1010 6th. Only other sites to note movement Holme where 117 west March 25th and Scolt where 67 west April 6th.

Breeding data: at least 44 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 20 pairs Tyrrell's Wood Long Stratton, 19 pairs Scolt Head and 2 pairs Blakeney Point. Recorded in 69 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn movement noted from Hunstanton where 4089 south 209 north Sept 22nd-Nov 24th with peaks 764 Oct 2nd, 418 17th, 681 21st and 148 31st. Coastal movement also noted from Cromer GC where 50 south Oct 30th and Holme where 350 west Nov 3rd.

Highest counts in last 2 months of year: *Nov* 400 Kelling WM, 300 Holme; *Dec* 900 Salthouse, 800 Forncett and 650 Thornham Farms.

COLLARED DOVE (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*
Common resident. Green List.
Largest counts in first winter period all from Langham with peaks of 126 Jan, 131 Feb and 105 March.

Very light spring coastal movement commenced March 16th with 6 west Beeston Bump and 1 west Weybourne. Movement at Hunstanton Cliffs also very light with 79 south 4 north March 18th-May 1st peaking at 17 south April 28th.

Breeding data: 5 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farms. Recorded in 45 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Small-scale autumn movement noted from Hunstanton cliffs where 62 south Sept 22nd-Nov 17th peaking at 10 south Oct 2nd and 8 south 31st.

Highest counts in second winter period: *Nov* 106 Langham, 62 Thetford; *Dec* 75 Tharston and 30 Fulmodeston.

TURTLE DOVE (European Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur turtur*

Fairly common, though declining, summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

A bird at East Carleton Jan 1st was an unusual but not unprecedented winter occurrence. First record of spring 1 at Thornham April 19th and thereafter numbers built quickly with 1-3 noted from numerous sites to month end. Birds continued to arrive throughout May with 1-5 reported from a wide scattering of sites throughout the county.

A small trickle of passage migrants noted moving through a few coastal watchpoints with 1 east Paston April 30th, 2 west Muckleburgh Hill May 14th when also 1 west Stiffkey with another west there 15th, 1 west Kelling WM 17th with 1 east there 27th and 3 west Cley 29th. The number of birds noted actively moving along our coast is dropping year on year and reflects a huge decline in Turtle Doves across their range.

During the summer months records received from only 87 sites (well down on the 136 localities of 2009). Recorded in 12 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

As usual birds dispersed rapidly after breeding, leaving only a handful of records during Sept. The year's last record involved a lingering individual in the Weybourne area from late Sept until it was last seen Oct 11th.

CUCKOO (Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus canorus*

Fairly common, though declining, summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

First of year Santon Downham April 10th and thereafter numbers slowly increased as spring progressed. One south Hunstanton April 30th was the spring's only record of a bird actively migrating along our coastline and is reflective of a large national decline in numbers of this species.

Records of calling birds during spring and summer widespread throughout county but the number of juvs was lower than most years with the only records coming in July from Breydon, Cromer GC, Holme, 2 Salthouse, Santon Warren, 2 Scolt Head, Stiffkey and Weybourne. Recorded in 21 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Most birds departed soon after breeding and by Aug singles reported from only 7 sites. Two recorded Sept with birds at Gramborough Hill 1st and Holme 10th. Last record of year also from Holme where 1 present Oct 8th/9th.

Two hepatic females recorded during the year: singles at Gorleston May 27th and Hickling Broad June 9th.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba alba*

Nominate British form a fairly common resident. Continental form *guttata* (Dark-breasted Barn Owl) a very rare vagrant. Amber List.

Records received from throughout the county from 303 sites, somewhat down on the last 2 years. The hard winter of 2009/10 may be a factor, although this may only reflect submissions of this very familiar species. In first part of year, largest multiple sightings: up to 8 (Jan 31st) Holkham GM, up to 7 (Feb 5th) Holme, up to 6 (Jan 10th) Chedgrave/Thorpe Marshes, 5 Ouse Washes, up to 4 Cley, Stiffkey/Warham, Thornham SM and Thorpe/Whitlingham Marshes and 3 Blakeney GM, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy and Guist Common.

Successful breeding confirmed at Cley, Denton, Elsing, Felbrigg, Hethel, Mid-Yare RSPB (3 pairs), North Creake, Ongar Hill, Rockland (2 pairs), Roydon, Shelton, Sparham and Wicklewood, although pairs present in breeding season at 10 other sites. Breeding surveys in parts of west Norfolk

estimated 15 pairs, with 3 of these feeding young, and in east Norfolk 17 pairs, though it is unclear how many of the sites above were included in these surveys. Recorded in 11 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Largest counts in autumn: 4 Cantley Marshes Nov 6th, Warham SM Dec 24th and Burnham Norton Dec 27th; 3 Burnham Overy GM Nov 13th, Oxnead Dec 27th, Roydon Common Dec 8th and Holkham GM Dec 30th.

Road casualties reported at Burnham Market, Stockton (2 birds on widely separated dates) and Threxton.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua vidalii*

Fairly common naturalised resident.

Records received from 140 sites, the highest for several years, although many observers have reported birds absent from formerly regular local sites. The vast majority of records relate to single birds or pairs, but 3 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm and 2 pairs Repps-with-Bastwick, 4 birds Aylmerton, Gayton Thorpe and Ringstead Common and 3 Flitcham, Low Tharston, North Pickenham and Scarning.

As usual, breeding difficult to confirm, but successful pairs at Aylmerton, Burnham Thorpe, North Creake, Ringstead, Roydon, Threxton and West Acre. Recorded in 5 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco sylvatica*

Common resident. Green List.

Records received from 144 sites, a substantial improvement on the totals from the last five years, though this may be due in part to improved effort and coverage. Multiple winter records: 4 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 3 Massingham Heath, 2 East Harling and Hockham Heath.

By the standards of recent years, a good breeding season. Occupied territories reported from at least 26 sites including 5 Hickling, 3 Ringstead Courtyard Farms, Sculthope Moor and Shadwell, and 2 pairs Blakeney, Pulham St. Mary, Sparham and Suffield. From these sites 21 pairs, including both at Blakeney and Pulham St. Mary, successful fledged one or more young. A small survey in the east of the county recorded 6 successful pairs, and a survey (for Long-eared Owls) carried out in west Norfolk identified 43 territorial pairs, which raised a total of 48 young. However, with incomplete data available, it is not known how many of these sites/pairs in surveys were successful or how many were reported separately by other recorders. Recorded in 2 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus otus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Very scarce breeder. Green List.

In first winter period records from 6 sites: Cockley Cley Feb 10th, Dersingham Feb 8th, Gorleston March 26th, Great Moulton Feb 14th, Hempton Feb 4th and Snettisham Jan 21st. Spring records possibly referring to late migrants or to potential breeding birds Holme April 2nd, Ringland April 21st, Bayfield Hall April 24th and Yarmouth area April 30th.

Very little evidence of breeding received. In a survey of 33 potential sites in the west of the county, only 3 were occupied, and at one a pair successfully fledged 3 young. Elsewhere breeding season records from Gorleston, Great Hockham and Thetford.

Coastal autumn migrants: *Oct* West Runton 2nd, Titchwell 8th, Kelling WM 11th, Wells East Hills 12th, in off the sea Burnham Overy Dunes 16th, Holme and Sheringham 24th, latest in off the sea Sheringham Nov 9th. In December 1-2 wintering birds at 2 mid-Norfolk sites.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus flammeus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Very scarce breeder. Amber List.

Following a good autumn in 2009, many recorded during the first 3 months. Largest gatherings on Haddiscoe/Chedgrave/Thorpe Marshes (max 10 Feb 11th), Holme (max 6 Jan 2nd), Terrington Marsh

(max 4 March 3rd), Breydon/Gapton Marshes (max 3 Feb 17th) and Whitlingham Marshes (max 3 Feb 13th). Other winter sightings, mostly around coastal areas and of single birds, from Blakeney, Buckenham, Caister, Cley/Salthouse, Dersingham Bog, Eccles, Happisburgh (2 March 27th), King's Lynn, Narborough, North Wootton, Roydon Common, Sculthorpe Moor, Snettisham (2 Feb 20th), Stiffkey/Warham (2 Jan 2nd), Titchwell and Welney.

Sightings, almost entirely of single birds, continued throughout April, locations additional to winter sites: Choseley, Pudding Norton, Scolt Head, Thornham and West Somerton. A migrant in off the sea Sheringham April 3rd.

In May/June singles Holme, North Wootton and Scolt Head.

First autumn record Snettisham Aug 16th, followed by singles Scolt Head 20th and Blakeney Point 23rd. More sightings in Sept indicated an arrival of birds (though only 1 seen coming in off the sea Sheringham 7th): 2 Breydon 19th, Blakeney Point 25th and Salthouse 30th. Singles also Welney and along north coast at month end. Records increased substantially in Oct with many arrivals logged by seawatchers: Happisburgh 2nd, Holkham Bay and Scolt Head 10th, Sheringham, West Runton and Yarmouth 16th, Holme (2), Salthouse and Cromer 24th and Cromer 31st, though many other coastal records doubtless referred to incoming migrants.

Inland, 2 or 3 Welney throughout month and 1 Cantley/Limpenhoe 27th. In Nov further incoming migrants recorded Holme, Weybourne and Sheringham 9th, with many other records of single birds from coastal localities. Inland, singles Breydon from 7th, Roydon Common 17th, Surlingham Church Marsh 13th, Sustead 22nd and throughout month Welney. Fewer records in Dec, though up to 4 in the Brancaster/ Burnham Overy/Scolt Head area, with singles Lynn Point and Stiffkey/Warham. Inland birds Chedgrave Marshes 10th, Upton Fen 13th and Berney/ Breydon Water 29th.

Short-eared Owl (*James McCallum*)

NIGHTJAR (European Nightjar) *Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

First record Dersingham Bog April 26th followed by 3 there 30th, then 1 Roydon Common May 6th.

Counts of 'churring' males in early/mid-summer (2009 counts in brackets): *North* 19 (17) at 5 sites, though again only a single male heard Salthouse Heath; *Central* 16 (18) from 4 sites; *West* 32 (36) at 5 sites, with 20 territories at the main locality; *Brecks* although an incomplete picture, 17 at 6 sites. No records received from the usual site in the east of the county. Away from traditional heathland or felled forestry sites, single 'churring' males heard at 3 other locations, and possible passage birds recorded Blakeney GM/Blakeney Point May 29th, and a female or juv Hickling Aug 26th.

SWIFT (Common Swift) *Apus apus apus*

Very common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Early first record of 4 Spooner Row April 10th, followed by single Hunstanton 18th, and reports of 1-4 quite widespread from 19th onwards, though 29 Whitlingham 23rd and 15 Welney 25th. Larger numbers including an obvious westerly movement seen towards month's end: *28th* 43 south Hunstanton, 108 west Scolt Head, 30 Thetford Nunnery Lakes; *29th* 770 west Scolt Head and 54 west Sheringham GC; *30th* 150 Blakeney Point, 68 south Hunstanton, 380 west Kelling WM, 127 west Paston, 279 west Scolt Head, 100 Stanford Water and 60 Titchwell.

Few major coastal flocks or movements reported during May: *1st* 30 Holme and 40 Titchwell; *2nd*

45 Holme; *5th* 50 Cley; *11th* 150 Holkham; *14th* 43 west Kelling WM and 57 west Scolt Head (with 283 20th and 525 west 24th at the latter site); *26th* 135 Titchwell; *29th* 160 Blakeney. Largest inland feeding parties: *4th* 420 Swanton Morley GP and 120 Welney; *5th* 100 Sculthorpe Moor; *6th* 300 Rockland Broad; *7th* 145 Guist Common; *8th* 100 Gt. Ryburgh watchpoint and 300 Welney; *29th* 120 Mousehold Heath, Norwich.

Very few breeding records received, but 12 nesting sites on one observer's house at Southrepps, 14 seen entering under pantiles Beetley, and birds seen entering nest holes Pulham Market. Successful nests Edgefield and Elsing. Recorded in 40 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

In June, the usual westerly coastal movements logged only at Scolt Head, where over 3000 west during the month, with 454 27th, 972 28th, 767 29th and 249 30th. In July 4033 west Scolt Head, including 437 2nd, 707 4th, 471 5th, 277 9th, 605 18th and 288 19th. Also in July, large feeding flocks, mostly over crop fields, recorded at several inland sites: 200 Chedgrave 2nd, 400 North Creake 10th (and 1200 with hirundines there 16th, and 750 19th), 1000 Burnham Market 17th (and still 500 21st).

Numbers typically reduced in Aug, but 50 Cromer 1st, 59 south Hopton and 125 west Old Catton 5th (and 70 south there with House Martins 6th), 112 Blakeney Point and 42 Scolt Head 7th. From mid-month reports of 1-6 birds still widespread, and 10 Sculthorpe Moor 31st. Similar small numbers still recorded throughout the county during Sept, but small movement 11th when 20 Holme, 21 west Scolt Head and 14 Blakeney Point. Six records (of 1-2 birds) in Oct, with latest singles Burnham Overy, Hindringham and Holme, all 5th.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba melba*

Rare vagrant.

The third week of March produced a major influx of this species into Britain with at least 2 birds in Norfolk. On 23rd one was between Holkham and Hunstanton (per Recorder) with another Cromer (per Recorder). The former remained until at least 27th, the latter until April 1st, roosting most nights on Cromer church but roaming west to West Runton and Sheringham and east to Overstrand, Sidestrand, Trimingham, Northrepps and Mundesley. Either the Cromer bird or another individual Yarmouth Bure Park March 24th (KB).

KINGFISHER (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis ispida*

Fairly common resident. Amber List.

Records from 133 localities, maintaining the increase of the last 2 years despite the hard winter of 2009/10.

Most reports in first winter period relate to singles, but 3 Strumpshaw Fen and 2 Barton Broad, Cringleford, Horsey Mere, Hickling Stubb Mill, Lenwade, Nar Valley Fisheries, Sculthorpe Moor, Thetford Nunnery Lakes and Two Mile Bottom.

Pairs recorded at only 14 sites during breeding season, a decrease from recent years, and successful fledging recorded from only 7 sites: East Barsham, East Runton, Holkham NNR, Houghton St. Giles, Hoveton Park (where one pair successfully fledged 2 broods), Norwich and UEA Broad.

During second half of year 2 seen at 17 sites, but records of 3 or more birds, therefore indicating possible breeding success, from only 5 sites: East Ruston, Strumpshaw, Thornham, Welney and Whitlingham CP.

BEE-EATER (European Bee-eater) *Merops apiaster*

Very scarce passage migrant in spring.

Singles Horsey/Waxham April 25th (TA), Titchwell 29th (MB, ET, AL *et al.*) and Kelling WM May 22nd (NRR).

HOOPOE (Eurasian Hoopoe) *Upupa epops epops*

Very scarce passage migrant.

A typical series of spring records: Burnham Overy Dunes April 20th-24th, Great Ryburgh April 27th and presumably same Sennowe Park May 1st, Sheringham April 28th, Thetford May 5th and Hopton May 12th. Only 2 autumn records: Burnham Norton Aug 20th and Yarmouth North Denes Sept 29th.

WRYNECK (Eurasian Wryneck) *Jynx torquilla torquilla*

Scarce or very scarce passage migrant in autumn, very scarce in spring. Red List.

A disappointing spring passage with only 4 birds reported followed by an average autumn with at least 27 individuals.

Spring: *April* Kelling Heath 23rd, Barton Bendish and Eccles 24th; *May* Saham Toney 19th.

A bird at Roydon July 14th was most unusual.

Autumn: *Aug* Blakeney Point 14th, Sheringham 27th, Yarmouth 29th, Blakeney Point 30th/31st, Warham Greens 30th, Catfield, Holme and Waxham 31st; *Sept* Blakeney Point 2nd (also 5th), Weybourne 5th, Heacham and Waxham 6th, Cley 7th and 12th, Scolt Head 7th, Sidestrand 8th/9th, Trimingham 8th and 11th, Cart Gap 9th, 1-2 Blakeney Point 27th and 29th, Holme 27th/28th, Hunstanton 28th-30th (and Oct 2nd-4th), Winterton 30th; *Oct* Hempton 3rd, Stanhoe 6th and 9th, Holme 9th (2 on 10th), Waxham 13th, Norwich 19th.

GREEN WOODPECKER (European Green Woodpecker) *Picus viridis viridis*

Fairly common resident. Amber List.

Reports from 166 sites. Breeding pairs (single unless stated): Belaugh, 3 Hoveton Park, 5 Long Stratton, Old Catton, Pentney Heath, 3 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Welney. Recorded in 33 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

British form *anglicus* a common resident. Nominate continental form (Northern Great Spotted Woodpecker) a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*anglicus*).

Reports from 44 sites. Breeding noted (single pairs unless stated): 6 Hoveton Park, Long Stratton, Norwich Sweet Briar Marsh, 2 Pentney Heath, 3 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Sculthorpe Moor, Welney. Recorded in 26 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn migrants (all singles): *Sept* south Holme 18th, south Hunstanton 22nd; *Oct* east Kelling WM 10th, west Stiffkey 25th, south Cromer GC 30th, south Hunstanton 8th, west along cliffs Cromer GC 14th.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor comminutus*

Scarce and declining resident. Red List.

Recorded at 26 sites (singles unless stated): Barton Broad, Beeston Common, Bintree Mill, Filby Broad, Guist Common, Holkham Park, Horsford, Langley, Lynford Arboretum, Martham Ferry, Methwold, Norwich, Outwell, 5 Santon Downham, Saxlingham Nethergate, Sculthorpe Moor, Sennowe Park, South Walsham, Sparham Pools, Stanford TA, Taverham, Thetford Nunnery, 2 Thetford Two Mile Bottom, 4 Weeting Heath, Wellingham.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum*

Very rare vagrant.

An apparent first-winter Blakeney Point Sept 24th-27th (JRMcC, PN *et al.*) - a new bird for Norfolk and the undoubted highlight of the year. See article for full details. Note that this bird has yet to be accepted by BBRC - see Editorial for explanation.

GOLDEN ORIOLE (Eurasian Golden Oriole) *Oriolus oriolus oriolus*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. No longer breeds. Red List.

A good year, the highest number recorded since 2006. In May singles Fakenham May 5th, Yarmouth 25th and heard calling Holkham Meals 26th, singing Kelling Heath June 4th, another in song Titchwell 7th, male Martham June 10th (presumed same Martham Broad later that day) and a male Briston July 5th.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio collurio*

Very scarce passage migrant. Former breeder. Red List.

Typical late spring/early summer arrivals: adult male Kelling Hard May 27th roaming as far west as Blakeney GM and last seen Cley June 1st, Sea Palling June 2nd, Northrepps June 7th and Snettisham June 13th.

An early juv Walsey Hills Aug 10th with small influx at month end when Weybourne 27th (until Sept 5th), Cley and Waxham 30th (latter until Sept 1st). In Sept singles Winterton and Holme 1st (latter until 8th with 2 there 5th-7th), Kelling Heath 4th, Gorleston 7th and a long-staying adult male Winterton 8th-21st. Single Oct record: Cromer 5th/6th.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

Very rare vagrant.

Adult male Kelling and Salthouse Aug 17th-19th (JS *et al.*). This bird was then relocated on the Isles of Scilly in Sept.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor excubitor*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Just 2 spring coastal migrants: Salthouse March 29th and Holme April 10th. Autumn passage from late Sept when singles Holkham GM, Morston and Weybourne 27th and further singles Bacton (also Cart Gap and Happisburgh) and Sheringham 29th with the latter Cromer GC the following day. In Oct new arrivals Winterton 8th-11th, Wells East Hills and Holme 9th (latter remaining until 19th and also visiting Hunstanton GC) with small influx 10th when singles Burnham Overy (until 15th), Scolt Head, Sheringham (until 12th), Stiffkey SM and West Runton. Continued movement throughout month: Kelling WM and Snettisham 11th, Sculthorpe Moor 13th-15th, Eccles 14th, Hopton 16th (in off the sea), Hunstanton 21st, Burnham Thorpe 23rd and Martham/Repps 25th/26th. Nov singles Cley 1st and Marham 6th with final bird of year Heacham Dec 8th. Despite such a good autumn, there were no over-wintering birds for the first time since 2002.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

Nominate southern European form a rare vagrant. Balearic, Corsican and Sardinian form *badius* ('Balearic Woodchat Shrike') has occurred on one occasion.

First-summer male Winterton April 28th-May 15th (per Recorder).

JAY (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius*

British form *rufitergum* (British Jay) a common resident. Nominate continental form (Continental Jay) a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*rufitergum*) and Green List (nominate).

Large gatherings noted in the first winter period: 20 seen in a single visit along River Yare from UEA Broad to Bowthorpe Jan 1st; 15 King's Lynn March 19th; 21 reported from UEA Broad and Cringleford March 22nd (possibly same).

In April 3 movements south Hunstanton: single 22nd, 2 26th, single 28th.

Breeding: 2 pairs Tyrell's Wood, Long Stratton, pair fledged 4 young North Creake, 3 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm. Recorded in 34 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn movements (all Oct) included 7 records 10th/11th suggestive of irruption from Continent.

All movements: 4 west Holme 2nd, 4 east Titchwell 2nd, 5 southwest River Tud Valley, New Costessey 8th, 3 south Beeston Bump 10th, 10 arrived from east Gorleston 10th, 11 east Holme 10th, 18 Yarmouth Cemetery 10th, 11 north Eccles 11th, c50 Overstrand 11th, 16 south Waxham 11th, 6 southwest River Tud Valley, New Costessey, single north Eccles 15th, 4 south Sea Palling 17th, 2 south Hunstanton 22nd.

An albino noted New Costessey July 3rd.

MAGPIE (Eurasian Magpie) *Pica pica pica*

Common resident. Green List.

Roost counts in first winter period: *Jan* up to 100 Roydon Common, 54 Whitlingham CP; *March* 55 Whitlingham CP, 22 Cringleford, 109 Norwich Sweet Briar Marsh.

Light spring passage with 9 movements noted: *March* 3 west Weybourne 23rd, 2 east Weybourne 27th, single east Beeston Bump 30th; *April* single southeast Weybourne 2nd, 5 west Weybourne 9th, 4 north Sidestrand 17th, single west Weybourne 22nd; *May* 5 west Guestwick 12th.

Breeding reports: pair Tyrrell's Wood, Long Stratton and 13 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm. Recorded in 49 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

The only autumn movement reported was of a single south Hunstanton Oct 2nd.

Roost counts in second winter period: *Dec* 11 Ormesby St. Margaret 1st, 51 Whitlingham CP 19th, 41 UEA Broad 21st.

A pale grey and black aberrant bird with a long, evenly down-curved upper mandible noted Yarmouth Cemetery May 15th. A bird at Bowthorpe Marshes, Costessey was seen to twice tweak a fox's tail July 18th.

JACKDAW (Western Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula*

Western European form *spermologus* (Western Jackdaw) a very common resident. Nominate eastern European form (Nordic Jackdaw) a very scarce winter visitor. Green List (both forms).

Peak counts in first winter period: *Jan* 3000 Roydon Common, 700 Suffield, 1800 Hingham, 500 Burgh Castle; *Feb* 3600 Hingham, 1200 Roydon Common; *March* 292 Holkham Park, 250 Saham Toney Hills.

Spring movements: 153 south 8 north Hunstanton March 17th-May 1st ; *March* 67 east Paston 14th, 2 east Beeston Bump 16th, 43 east Paston 22nd, 3 east Weybourne 23rd, 7 east Weybourne 26th, west Weybourne 26th, 35 in off the sea Caister 27th, 44 east Paston 28th; *April* 5 west Scolt Head 8th, single in from the sea then west Weybourne 14th, 6 east 2 west Weybourne 16th, 6 west Scolt Head 22nd, 6 west Scolt Head 28th; *May* 19 west Scolt Head 1st-23rd.

Breeding pairs: 5 Brograve Mill, Hickling, 40 Hoveton Park, 10 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 40 Sparham (in single lime tree), Ringland. Recorded in 51 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

An unseasonal movement of 5 west Scolt Head July 2nd .

Autumn movements: 162 south 28 north Hunstanton Sept 20th-Nov 17th, peak 32 south Oct 17th.

Highest flock counts in second half of year: *July* 500 Haddiscoe Marshes; *Oct* 301 King's Lynn; *Nov* 476 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 150 Anmer, 116 Weston Longville, 800 Roydon Common, 450 Holkham; *Dec* 3000 Roydon Common, 15000 Cantley Marshes, 2000 Thetford Nunnery Lakes.

Birds considered to show characteristics of *monedula*: Blakeney GM April 30th, Edgefield Oct 25th, Nov 18th and 30th, Blackborough End Tip Dec 21st and 30th.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*

Very common resident and passage migrant. Green List.

Largest gatherings reported in first winter period: *Jan* 500 Old Hall Farm, 650 Hingham, 350 Whitington; *Feb* 300 Weybourne, 100 Blakeney GM, 1900 Hingham; *March* 550 Thorpe Marshes, Haddiscoe; *April* 200 Attlebridge.

Spring movements: *March* 4 east Beeston Bump 16th, 11 south Hunstanton 18th; *April* 22 south Hunstanton 6th, 3 west Scolt Head 6th, single east Weybourne 7th, single in off the sea Weybourne 21st,

single east Weybourne 23rd, 18 south Hunstanton 23rd, 9 west Scolt Head 24th, 4 east Weybourne 29th; *May* single west Scolt Head 16th, 2 west Weybourne 16th.

Rookery counts (nests): 42 Bagmore, 49 Croxton Heath, 108 Long Stratton, 19 Potter Heigham, 467 Stanford TA, 60 West Somerton, 70 West Tofts, 109 Westmere, 167 Weybourne, 45 Woodton. Active rookeries also noted East Wretham, Ludham, Oby, Repps-with-Bastwick. Recorded in 40 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

The only autumn passage noted 16 south Hunstanton Oct 31st.

Autumn/winter concentrations: *June* 1450 Ringland; *July* 50 Haddiscoe Marshes; *Nov* 212 Weston Longville, 3000 Elsing; *Dec* 250 Cley, 250 Langham, 5000 Elsing, 25000 Cantley.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone corone*

Common resident and passage migrant. Green List.

Gatherings in first winter period: *Feb* 60 Methwold Fen, 30 Whitington, 100 Strumpshaw Fen, 65 Weeting; *March* 47 North Wootton Marsh.

Spring passage: *March* 71 west 87 east Weybourne 11th-27th, 6 west Holme and 4 south Hopton 25th; *April* 336 west Scolt Head 6th-28th, single in off the sea Sheringham 9th, 26 east Weybourne 14th, 50 west Holme 17th, 21 north Sidestrand 17th, 2 east Sheringham 18th, 39 north Trimingham 20th, single in off the sea Hopton 22nd, 2 west Sheringham 23rd, 74 west Paston 23rd, 32 south Hunstanton 24th, 17 west Cley 27th, 2 west Sheringham 30th; *May* 12 west Scolt Head 5th, 23 east 10 west 16 in off the sea then south Beeston Bump 14th, 9 west Scolt Head 14th, 14 west Scolt Head 16th.

Breeding records: 3 pairs Tyrrell's Wood, Long Stratton, 2 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm, pair built nest but did not breed Scolt Head. Recorded in 63 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Notable gatherings in second half of year: 40 Haveringland Sept 26th, 15 Blakeney Point Sept 30th, 21 Blakeney Point Oct 8th, 50 Trimingham Oct 15th, 30 Methwold Fens Nov 12th, 80 Roydon Common Nov 17th.

Autumn/winter passage: 12 south Hunstanton Oct 17th, 9 west Beeston Common Dec 27th.

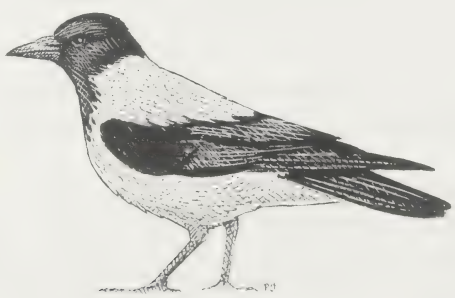
***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** One observed Breydon Dec 2009 catching a Golden Plover in flight.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix cornix*

Very scarce, and declining, winter visitor and passage migrant. Green List.

This species, recently rare but which was once a regular winter visitor to the county, now seems to be making something of a comeback, with at least ten records during the year: Sheringham March 18th (PJV), probably same Kelling WM 18th (MN), Hanworth March 20th (MC), Blakeney Point (ES), Cromer GC (DM) and Sidestrand (AB) April 3rd (all probably relating to the same individual), Scolt Head April 25th (NML), Cley/Kelling/ Salthouse July 25th-Oct 20th (GJE *et al.*), Sidestrand Oct 8th (AB), Waxham Oct 10th (JB), Trimingham Oct 17th (RC), Horsey 25th (AJLS) and Cantley Marshes Dec14th to year end (TB *et al.*).

Hybrid Hooded x Carrion Crows Burgh Castle all year and Waxham Jan 27th.



Hooded Crow (*Phil Jones*)

RAVEN (Northern Raven) *Corvus corax corax*

Very rare vagrant. Green List.

Records of this species are hard to prove and only one of this year's claims was acceptable - Norwich Sept 16th (RH). With breeding now occurring in the East Midlands, it is possible that records of this majestic crow may soon increase.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus regulus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.

In first winter period only significant count 20 Holkham Meals Jan 25th.

Limited breeding data received with a max of 5 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm and confirmed breeding Brancaster Thompson Farms, Holt, Long Stratton and Threxton. Recorded in 20 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn passage from late Sept when 50 Blakeney Point 27th and 200 Holme 30th. In early Oct double-figure counts from 11 coastal sites with notable influx 10th when 300 Wells Woods, 250 Holme, 100 Winterton and 'large fall' Weybourne. Still 160 Holme 16th and 40 Holkham Meals 21st.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla ignicapilla*

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor, very scarce in winter. Amber List.

Widespread during Jan/Feb with up to 7 at one Breckland site, 4 at 2 sites along the Holt-Cromer ridge and up to 3 Holkham Meals, 2 Sheringham BO and single Wolferton. First migrants early March when singles Blakeney 4th and Winterton 8th but main movement from 18th to month end with 1-3 at 16 coastal locations while away from main breeding areas 1-2 at a further 6 inland sites.

Strong evidence of continued expansion and consolidation in Breckland where a breeding season survey located 68 territories although confirmed breeding only from Weeting where pair feeding at least 3 young May 11th. No confirmed breeding from Holt-Cromer ridge other than a juv Holt Aug 17th but up to 28 singing males at various sites along the ridge April-June. At an extensive site in the west of the county, a survey revealed 5 pairs plus an additional 5 singing males with 1 pair fledging 3 young in 2 broods. Elsewhere, successful breeding Wells Woods with a pair fledging 2 broods.

Autumn migrants from Sept 7th when 2 Horsey and a single Waxham with further singles during month Eccles, Gorleston and Holme. Small-scale coastal movement continued in early Oct with 1-2 at 9 sites. Coastal singles in Nov Cley, Titchwell, Waxham and Yarmouth Cemetery with inland records Itteringham, North Elmham (singing) and Sculthorpe (until Dec 4th). Scarce in Dec with singles at 8 sites, just one of these in Breckland.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

British form *obscurus* (British Blue Tit) a very common resident. Nominate continental form (Continental Blue Tit) a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*obscurus*).

In first winter period max counts 40 Brancaster Jan 26th and 40 Surlingham Feb 13th.

Breeding: Courtyard Farm Ringstead 32 territories, a slight increase from the 31 territories/pairs in 2007. Recorded in 66 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

In autumn max counts 35 Thompson Farms Brancaster July 24th and Aug 1st, 60 Holme Oct 8th and 40 there 10th/11th and 16th, 25 Bacton Wood Nov 28th and 52 King's Lynn Dec 30th. At Hunstanton visible migration south of 3 Sept 21st, 8 29th, 4 Oct 2nd and 31st, single Nov 1st, also 17 high west Paston Sept 30th and 27 east there Oct 7th.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

British form *newtoni* (British Great Tit) a very common resident. Nominate continental form (Continental Great Tit) a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*newtoni*).

In first winter period max count 40 Surlingham Feb. Visible spring migration at Hunstanton: a total of 203 moved south March 18th-April 28th including flocks of 129 March 18th, 50 22nd and 20 23rd, 39

west Sheringham March 18th, 6 west Happisburgh 19th and 8 west Cromer GC 21st.

Breeding: Courtyard Farm Ringstead 29 territories, declines of 9% on 2008 and 36% on 2007 territories. Elsewhere 20 pairs Tyrrell's Wood Long Stratton and 19 pairs Hoveton Park. Recorded in 67 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Visible autumn migration at Hunstanton: 13 (all south) Sept 21st, 6 22nd, 4 23rd and 2 27th, 11 high west Paston Sept 30th and 16 high east Oct 7th. A single of the continental form trapped Eccles Oct 16th. In second winter period max 30 Sprowston Dec.

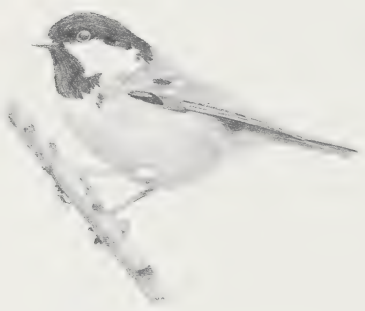
COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

British form *britannicus* (British Coal Tit) a fairly common resident. Nominate continental form (Continental Coal Tit) a very scarce irruptive visitor in autumn. Amber List (*britannicus*).

In first winter period max count 25 Lynford Arboretum Feb.

Breeding: Courtyard Farm, Ringstead 9 territories, a decrease of 10% (1 pair) from 2007. Recorded in 21 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Visible southward migration at Hunstanton: 7 Sept 21st and single Oct 30th. Peak count Holme 20 Oct 11th.



Coal Tit (*John Wagstaffe*)

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana*

British form *kleinschmidti* (British Willow Tit) a very scarce and declining resident. Scandinavian form *borealis* (Northern Willow Tit) a very rare vagrant. Red List (*kleinschmidti*).

Just a single record of a species which is now a very rare bird in the county: Hempton (trapped) Jan 26th (GE).

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris dresseri* (English Marsh Tit)

Fairly common resident. Red List.

Recorded at 141 localities, a slight increase on 134 in 2009 and 130 in 2007. Highest counts: 6 Ketteringham Jan, 8 Lynford Arboretum Feb, 6 Hockham Heath March, 8 Sculthorpe April and Nov, 8 (4 pairs) Roydon Common June-July, 6 Bayfield Hall Dec. Recorded in 7 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

BEARDED TIT (Bearded Reedling) *Panurus biarmicus biarmicus*

Fairly common resident. Amber List.

In first winter period double-figure counts: 13 Hardley Flood Jan 2nd, 23 Fritton Marshes 5th, 21 Haddiscoe Marshes 7th (17 still present Feb 20th), 30 Blakeney GM 8th, 23 Burgh Castle 10th, c12 Cley 21st (increasing to 27 by Feb 20th), 40 Chedgrave Marshes and 14 Reedham 26th (increasing at the latter site to 16 Feb 19th) and 25 Hickling Broad March 8th.

Breeding pairs: *North coast* 1 Holme, c10 Titchwell, 6+ Burnham Deepdale, 14 Holkham NNR, 20 Cley; *Broads* 6+ Breydon-Burgh Castle, 1 Barton Turf Fen, 50 pairs/territories Hickling Broad

complex, 1 Hall Farm Hoveton, 1 Ranworth Flood, *Yare Valley* 37 Mid-Yare RSPB, also 40 including many juvs Cantley BF July 24th.

Some evidence of migration or irruptive behaviour in autumn: *Sept* 14 Burnham Deepdale 3rd, 13 Blakeney GM 8th; *Oct* 4 east Sheringham 2nd, up to 13 on 6 dates Weybourne, 2 Kelling WM 5th and 4 18th, 12 Brancaster 6th, single Snettisham, 2 west Holme, 14 described as 'very active' Burnham Norton, 5 east Stiffkey and 6 west Morston 10th, 3 Sculthorpe 11th, 8 high west out of reedbed before returning to Titchwell 14th and 4 west there 23rd, 2 Thetford Nunnery 17th/18th, 8 Upton Fen 18th, 2 Stiffkey Fen 22nd and 4 28th, 4 Burnham Overy Staithe 30th (and 2 Nov 1st) and 3 Buckenham Marshes 31st; *Nov* 4 Brancaster 7th, singles Snettisham 7th and 23rd, 2 Southrepps and 3 Stiffkey Fen 8th, single Welney 12th, 2 29th and 2 Dec 12th.

Widely reported in second winter period, max monthly counts: *Sept* 50 Cley, 40 Titchwell; *Oct* 50 Breydon-Burgh Caste, 26 Holme; *Nov* 15 Cantley Marshes; *Dec* 20 Breydon-Burgh Castle, 12 Titchwell, 10 Strumpshaw Fen.

At Chedgrave Marshes 27 ringed during July and 51 during the year at Thornham Farms with 42 on Sept 21st, most of which were juvs.

SHORT-TOED LARK (Greater Short-toed Lark) *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Rare vagrant. Forms occurring are unknown but spring records likely to include at least nominate southern European birds and autumn records to include at least Asian *longipennis*.

Blakeney Point Aug 28th-Sept 7th (JRL, CM, AW *et al.*). This is the earliest ever autumn record for the county and the first in August.

WOODLARK (Wood Lark) *Lullula arborea arborea*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Amber List.

In Jan/Feb 3 Croxton, 4 Buxton Heath and 3 Roydon Common the only flocks. Away from known breeding areas migrants in March: Costessey 7th, 2 Weybourne 7th and 12th, Yarmouth 12th, Waxham 20th and in April Breydon Water 26th.

First singing male noted at end Jan from west with widespread reports from Feb onwards. In Thetford Forest the annual survey found 209 singing males of which 117 were in Norfolk, a decrease of 13% on 2009. Elsewhere numbers of singing males/pairs: 5 North, 3 Central, 8 West.

In autumn single migrants noted in Oct: North Elmham 2nd, Winterton 9th and 13th, Thornham 10th, Yarmouth 11th, Holkham Meals 17th, Titchwell 21st. No reports after Oct and no flocks noted on Stanford TA in the second winter period.

Woodlark (*John Wagstaffe*)

SKYLARK (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis*

Nominate form a common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Birds showing characters of the western Siberian and Central Asian form *dulcivox* noted on a couple of occasions. Red List (nominate).

In the first winter period highest counts: *Jan* 135 Daffy Green 1st, 205 Burnham Norton and 400 Ongar Hill 3rd, 345 Blakeney Harbour and 225 Blakeney Point 4th, 100 Stiffkey, 200 Weybourne 8th, 390 Hingham and 100 Weybourne 9th, 120 Stowbridge 10th, 150 Croxton 15th, 109 Holme 17th; *Feb* 100 Sheringham 20th, 200 Burnham Deepdale 21st; *March* 200 West Runton 1st, 110 Burnham Norton 23rd. The only spring migrants 6 west Beeston Bump March 15th and 2 16th.

Breeding records of singing males/pairs (last year in brackets): Scolt Head 83 (107), Blakeney Point 43 (36), Burnham Deepdale at least 60, Weybourne 17, Mid-Yare RSPB 23, Ringstead Courtyard Farm 73 (77), Roydon Common 2, Sparham 30 (38), Welney 36 (8), Brettenham Heath 10+. Additionally 120 reported Methwold Fens July 19th. Recorded in 58 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn migration noted from Sept 16th when 100 Holme. Peak Oct counts 100 in off the sea Cley 9th, 60 Holme 12th with 65 there 25th, 65 Burnham Overy GM 14th, 70 Burnham Overy Staithe 19th, 158 south Hunstanton 26th (part of a total of 367 south Sept 29th-Nov 8th) while in Nov 130 Repps-with-Bastwick 6th, 110 Burnham Norton 7th, 70 west Holme 21st, 60 west Holme, 85 south Snettisham 27th.

Significant flocks in the second winter period: *Nov* 126 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 24th, 150 Horsham St. Faiths and 200 Marham 28th; *Dec* 250 Happisburgh 4th with 215 9th, 150 Holkham Gap 5th with 100 25th, 200 Bacton and Ongar Hill 11th, 130 Kelling WM 21st.

SHORE LARK (Horned Lark) *Eremophila alpestris flava*

Scarce or very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Good numbers at 3 localities in the first winter period: 2 Snettisham to April 3rd with a single 21st, 16 Blakeney Point and Harbour Jan 4th with 10 April 22nd into May, the last a single on the late date of May 13th, 34 Holkham Bay Jan 16th then up to 17 Feb and 15 April, the last 2 April 21st.

In autumn first Burnham Overy Dunes and Blakeney Point Sept 27th with another Yarmouth 29th. In Oct 1-3 at 12 localities until 12th when 6 Blakeney Point, 14 Cley 18th/19th then 7 to 25th, 7 Happisburgh/Paston 19th then 3 24th, 6 Holkham Bay 25th, 9 Yarmouth North Beach 25th, 14 Blakeney Point 28th with 30 there 30th, 11 Titchwell 31st with 1-3 from 7 other sites. More reported Nov with peak counts 15 Blakeney Point/Cley 1st-6th, 33 Holkham Bay 15th, 43 Paston 7th, decreasing to 11 by 10th, 20 Holme 18th, 40 Blakeney Point 29th-Dec 2nd with smaller numbers widely scattered elsewhere. Many had moved on in Dec but there were still counts of 10 Scolt Head to 31st, 15 Holkham Bay 21st with 6 to 30th, 7 Paston 23rd, 9 Titchwell 26th-31st, 3 Cley and singles Sheringham 3rd and Gorleston 15th.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia riparia*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First in mid-March when singles Roydon Common and Titchwell 17th. Small numbers then at 30 locations from 18th until the month end, all single figures except for 16 Roydon Common 18th, 17 Hockwold Washes 20th, 12 Rockland Broad and 10 Strumpshaw Fen 25th, 31 Hockwold Washes 29th and 30 Titchwell 30th. Single and some double-figure counts continued into early April with peaks of 48 west Scolt Head 6th and 30 Strumpshaw Fen 11th. Main passage from 17th, peak counts 50 Holme 18th, 75 Welney 19th and 29 west Scolt Head 23rd with much larger numbers later in the month: 150 Nar Valley 24th, Scolt Head (all west): 188 25th, 103 26th, 295 28th, 140 29th. Passage continued into early May with peaks of 140 Gunton Park and 110 Swanton Morley GP 4th.

Breeding reported from 13 sites, peak numbers being 800+ nesting holes Leziate Sand Workings, 207 Nar Valley fisheries, 3 colonies Stanford TA with 130, 25 and 40 holes, 110 Beetley, 100+ Burgh Castle, 77 Cromer-Sheringham cliffs, 52 Weybourne-Sheringham plus a further 50 holes at another 5

sites. Again no breeding reported at Pentney GP.

Good numbers into late June with 45 Cley 20th, 49 west Scolt Head 23rd, 50 Weybourne 27th, 53 Kelling WM 28th. Peak July counts came from Scolt Head where 1013 west during the month, including 120 13th, 125 19th, 117 22nd, 195 29th. Autumn passage continued into Aug with largest counts 143 caught in roost Beetley 2nd, 300 Weybourne 3rd, 118 west Scolt Head 6th, Titchwell 400 west in 90 minutes 21st. In Sept an exceptional count of 500 west Holme 11th on a day of heavy hirundine passage. Small numbers elsewhere, peak counts 15 west Brancaster 5th, 11 west Scolt Head 11th and 10 Hoe 19th. In Oct south Hunstanton 1st and 2 Burnham Norton 3rd, the last of the year.

SWALLOW (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica rustica*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First of the year Whitlingham CP March 16th then reported in small numbers until March 30th when 14 Blakeney Point and 17 Cley. Small numbers continued into April with a peak of 20 Whitlingham CP 2nd and 25 5th until April 6th when 153 west Scolt Head with 120 there 17th and 25 south Snettisham 18th. Main passage from April 21st with some very large counts, most notable 1040 west Paston 23rd, 197 west Scolt Head 23rd, 27 24th, 495 25th, 402 26th, 704 28th, 496 29th, 606 30th, 300 west Incleborough Hill 24th, 174 south Hunstanton 25th with 305 south 30th, 250 Blakeney Point 26th, 126 west Kelling WM 30th. Large numbers continued into May with 114 south Hunstanton 1st, 446 west Scolt Head 1st, 991 15th, 1086 16th, 2023 17th, 213 18th, 384 20th, 283 24th, 145 Beeston Bump 14th, 258 west Salthouse 16th, 450 Holme BO 17th. Passage continued into June with 25 west Scolt Head 1st, 30 west 2nd and 24 west 13th, 12 Holme Redwell Marsh 10th.

Breeding reports (pairs): at least 10 Barney, 5 Beeston Regis, 3 Beetley, 4 Blakeney Point, 7 Caister, 4 Cley, Hindolveston, Horning (where a pair raised 2 broods on board the *Southern Comfort* paddle steamer), 6 Hoveton, 6 Ormesby St. Margaret, 3 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 2 Southrepps, 3 Sparham Pools, 3 Thornham Farms, 5 Welney, 5 Weybourne. Recorded in 55 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn passage began July 1st with 200 Reedham and noted Scolt Head from 2nd with 1074 west in the month including 120 13th, 125 19th, 117 22nd, 195 29th. Other significant counts: 150 North Creake 16th and 100 there 19th. In Aug passage noted most days with 100 roosting Guist Common 5th and 31st, 514 west Scolt Head 6th with 260 7th, 885 20th and 151 29th, 120 Blakeney Point 7th, 100 Holme 8th with 150 13th, 250 roosting Burgh Castle 12th, 300 North Wootton Marsh 13th, 200 Salthouse 21st, 250 Boughton Fen 27th. Passage heavy in Sept until 18th, peak counts 200 Boughton Fen 1st, 800 Holme 4th with 250 9th, 200 10th, 4300 west Holme and 2466 west Scolt Head 11th, a day of substantial hirundine passage, 120 west Holme 12th, 250 roosting Martham Pits 12th with 200 14th, 219 Old Hunstanton 14th, 240 west Paston 15th, 400 roosting Cantley 17th, 225 Holme 17th and 230 there 18th. Much smaller numbers reported to month end with peaks 32 Winterton 19th, 30 Ranworth Broad 27th and an exceptional 130 Holme 27th. An all white bird reported Burnham Norton 19th, Scolt Head and Stiffkey Fen. Oct continued in the same vein with small numbers all month peaking at 59 south Hunstanton 1st, 25 Burnham Norton 3rd, 37 Holme 4th, 23 Southrepps 5th. On 6th young still being fed at Welney. One or 2 reported at 9 sites in Nov, the last of the year Titchwell 15th.

HOUSE MARTIN (Common House Martin) *Delichon urbicum urbicum*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First reported March 20th with 2 west Salthouse and 2 Titchwell (where also 1 28th), 3 Strumpshaw Fen 25th. Then small numbers at 23 locations to April 18th after which passage increased in what was described at Scolt Head as a very poor spring, peak counts being 20 Welney 19th, 35 Bintree Mill 25th when 31 south Hunstanton and 60 west Scolt Head, 46 west Scolt Head 26th with 62 28th, 43 29th, 119 30th, 61 south Hunstanton and 67 west Kelling WM 30th. Passage heavier in May when 225 Swanton Morley 4th, 80 Holkham GM 6th, 130 Guist Common 7th, 120 Dereham Rush Meadow 11th, 52 west Scolt Head 19th with 102 23rd, 101 24th and 150 Stiffkey Fen 25th. Passage continued through June with 15 Kelling WM 1st, 78 west Scolt Head 1st, 55 7th and 13 29th, 40 East Harling 20th.

Breeding reported from 12 localities (pairs): Brundall 'for the first time in 5 years', 'fewer than usual' Cley, a colony Costessey Bowthorpe Estate, 14 Edgefield, most raising 2 broods, 30 Great Ryburgh, Hindringham (where 'best year' with 9 pairs raising 24+ young), 20 Ludham, 2 Ormesby St. Margaret, 7 Stanford TA, 34 Waxham Great Barn, 14 Welney, 6 Wighton. At Suffield none present for the first time ever. A year of apparently mixed fortunes but the species continues to be under-reported so a full picture is difficult to obtain. Recorded in 21 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

A few post-breeding flocks reported in July with peak counts 220 North Creake 16th and 100 Cockley Cley 31st. Passage more obvious during Aug with 80 Guist Common 5th, 115 west Scolt Head 13th with 553 west 20th and up to 50 from 11 other sites to month end. Passage continued throughout Sept, peak counts 60 Dersingham and 70 Methwold 1st, 60 Syderstone 3rd, 100 Holme 4th, 9th and 10th with 75 5th, 105 Blakeney Point 11th when 500 Holme and 2171 west Scolt Head on a day of heavy hirundine passage, 185 Aylmerton and 259 west Scolt Head 13th and 300 west Paston 15th. Passage fell away at month end, peak counts 60 west Beston Bump 20th and an exceptional 239 south Hunstanton 22nd. Reports continued but in small numbers throughout Oct with a max 11 west Kelling WM 1st, 20 Holme and 13 Wells Woods 4th and smaller numbers at 13 other sites. Two Eastmoor, Barton Bendish Nov 2nd were the last of the year.

A hybrid House Martin/Swallow reported East Ruston 19th.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti cetti*

Fairly common resident. Green List.

In the first winter period noted mainly along the north coast at Cley, Blakeney GM, Stiffkey, Burnham Norton, Titchwell and Holme and along the River Yare at Buckenham Marshes, Surlingham Marsh, Thorpe Whitlingham marshes, Whitlingham Sewage Works and Whitlingham CP. Also Barton Broad, Welney and Swanton Morley.

Only 120 singing males reported March-July. Total observations listed below by area total 190 although this is likely to be significantly less than the actual number. *River Yare* 73 recorded: 2 Yarmouth, 4 Breydon/Berney, 7 Hardley Flood, Rockland Broad, 24 Mid-Yare RSPB, 5 Wheatfen, 2 Surlingham Broad, 7 Surlingham Church Marsh, 4 Postwick, 2 Norwich Marston Marsh, 7 Whitlingham CP, 4 Cringleford/Bowthorpe Marshes, 4 UEA Broad; *Broads* 60 noted: 2 Barton Broad, 10 Catfield Fen, Cockshoot Broad, Filby Broad, 19 Hickling Broad, 2 Hickling Rush Hills, 2 Hickling Stubb Mill, Horning, 5 Horsey Mere, Little Hautbois, 2 Ormesby Little Broad, 3 Ranworth Broad, Ranworth Flood/Ward Marsh, 4 Ranworth Marshes, Rollesby Broad, 2 St. Benet's Level, South Walsham, Thurne, 2 Upton Fen, Woodbastwick; *North Coast* 38 reported: 3 Walsey Hills, 2 Cley, Blakeney, 2 Blakeney GM, Stiffkey Fen, 13 Holkham NNR, 2 Burnham Overy GM, 2 Burnham Overy Staithe, 3 Burnham Norton, Brancaster, 4 Titchwell, 2 Holme BO, Holme Redwell Marsh; *River Wensum* 5 reported: Norwich Sweetbriar Marsh, Costessey, Swanton Morley, Fakenham, Sculthorpe Moor; *River Waveney* 2 Gillingham Marshes; *Elsewhere* 12 reported: Hockwold Fen, 2 Welney, Pentney GP, Colton, Gresham, 3 East Ruston, Winterton, 2 Horsey Gap.

Dispersing birds noted: Holme (by Gore Point layby) Sept 4th, Weybourne Sept 12th, Hoveton Sept 28th, Salthouse (Gramborough Hill) Sept 29th, 3 males trapped and ringed Weybourne between Oct 5th and Nov 5th, Thornham Farms Oct 8th, Kelling WM Oct 30th.

LONG-TAILED TIT (Long-tailed Bushtit) *Aegithalos caudatus*

British form *rosaceus* (British Long-tailed Tit) a common resident. Nominate Scandinavian form (Northern Long-tailed Tit) a very rare vagrant. Birds showing characters of *caudatus/ europaeus* intergrades have occurred on at least two occasions. Amber List (*rosaceus*).

British Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus rosaceus*

Max counts: *Jan* 36 Beeston Regis, 28 Holkham Meals; *March* 35 Sheringham, 20 Saxthorpe; *May* 35 Lyng; *June* 40 Hempnall; *July* 42 East Rudham, 39 Kelling Heath, 31 Wroxham, 24 Weybourne;

Top; River Warbler at Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe. *(Both; Steve Gantlett)*
Middle left; Marsh Warbler at Gramborough Hill, Salthouse. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle right; Marsh Warbler nest in east Norfolk. *(Peter Allard)*
Bottom left; Lesser Whitethroat at Cley. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Bottom right; Lesser Whitethroat at Stiffkey showing characteristics of an eastern form. *(Ashley McElwee)*

Top left; Dartford Warbler on Kelling Heath. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Top right; Barred Warbler at Gramborough Hill, Salthouse. *(Julian Thomas)*
Middle; Blackcap and Garden Warbler. *(Neil Bowman)*
Bottom left; Icterine Warbler on Blakeney Point. *(Ashley Banwell)*
Bottom right; Radde's Warbler at Great Yarmouth Cemetery. *(Roger Connor)*

Top left; Iberian Chiffchaff at Stiffkey – the second county record. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Top right; Iberian Chiffchaff at Titchwell – the third county record. *(Will Soar)*
Middle left; Chiffchaff at Blakeney Point showing some characters of '*fulvescens*'. *(Richard Porter)*
Bottom left; Arctic Warbler at Holme. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Right; Yellow-browed Warbler. *(Neil Bowman)*

Top; Hume's Warbler at Wells. *(Both; Julian Bhalerao)*
Middle and Bottom; Pallas's Warblers at Burnham Overy Dunes.
(Middle; Penny Clarke, bottom; Julian Bhalerao)

Aug 30 Holme, 29 Terrington Marsh, 20 UEA Broad; *Sept* 32 Holkham Meals, 30 Holme, 30 Burnham Deepdale, 30 Methwold, 28 Mousehold Heath, Norwich; *Oct* 55 Holme, 50 Holkham Meals, 35 Suffield, 32 Wiveton, 30 Admiralty Point, 30 Blakeney, 30 East Rudham; *Nov* 63 Holme, 26 Stiffkey Fen, 22 Bacton and Happisburgh; *Dec* 32 Sheringham.

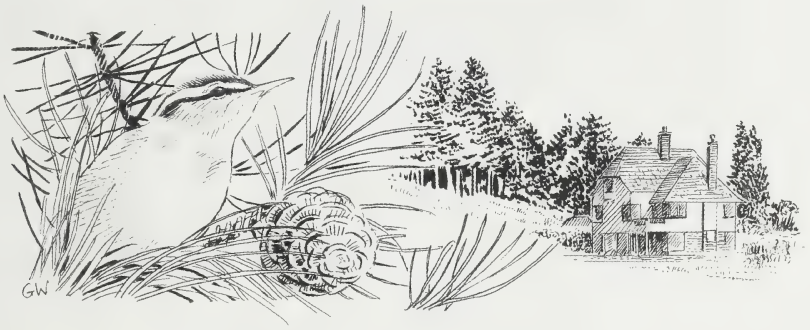
Breeding: Courtyard Farm Ringstead 25 territories, a decrease of 19% on 2008 and a return to the 2007 level. Recorded in 44 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Spring movements included 50 south along cliffs Hunstanton March 18th, followed by a single south there April 6th. In autumn south at Hunstanton: single Sept 21st, 18 Oct 31st, 16 Nov 1st and 6 8th, also 45 north Sea Palling Nov 5th.

Northern Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus*
Stiffkey Oct 31st (AMcE). A Long-tailed Tit southwest Blakeney Point Oct 31st (where any Long-tailed Tit is exceptionally rare) was probably the same bird.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Eastern European and western Russian form *viridanus* a rare vagrant. Siberian form *plumbeitarsus* (Two-barred Greenish Warbler) has occurred on at least one occasion.
Four records within 4 days at the end of Aug: Scolt Head 27th (NML), another 31st (NML), Sheringham BO 27th/28th (KBS) and Wells East Hills 29th-31st (NM).
***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Male in song Wells East Hills May 31st 2008 (SM).
***ADDITIONAL DATE*:** Sheringham Sept 14th-16th 2009, still present 18th.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*
Very rare vagrant.
Adult male (trapped) Holme Sept 6th-16th (GA, SB *et al.*).



Arctic Warbler (*Gary Wright*)

PALLAS'S WARBLER (Pallas's Leaf Warbler) *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Very scarce, occasionally scarce, autumn passage migrant.
An excellent year with 15 recorded. In Oct Blakeney Point 11th/12th, 2 Burnham Overy Dunes 11th-13th, Winterton 11th-15th, Holkham Meals 12th, Warham Greens 13th-17th, Holkham Meals 18th/19th, Winterton 18th/19th, Paston and High Kelling 31st, Holkham Meals Nov 1st/2nd, Waxham 1st, Hickling Stubb Mill 3rd and 6th/7th, Titchwell 7th-12th and Wells 9th-12th.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phyllosocpus inornatus*
Scarce autumn passage migrant.
Another excellent year, with around 80 recorded, first last week Sept when Warham Greens 23rd, Wells Woods 25th and Holme, Wells Woods, Warham Greens, 2 Blakeney Point and 1 Waxham 26th. Continued and much more widespread arrival 27th-30th when 4 Wells Woods, 3 Holkham Meals, 2

Blakeney Point, Kelling WM, Beeston Common and Yarmouth Cemetery, and singles Titchwell, Stiffkey, Wells Woods, Wells East Hills, Cley, Weybourne, Cromer, Paston and Waxham.

Singles in first 4 days of Oct at Holme, Holkham, Wells Woods, Salthouse, Weybourne, Sheringham, Beeston Common, Cromer, Happisburgh and Eccles included a mix of lingering birds and new arrivals. No others until 8th when another and more sustained influx of birds 8th-22nd when recorded daily, including 2 Holkham 13th and 18th-22nd, Breydon 14th, Yarmouth Cemetery 13th/14th and 16th, Warham Greens 16th and singles during the period Hunstanton, Holme, Titchwell, Brancaster GC, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Burnham Overy Dunes, Wells Woods, Wells East Hills, Stiffkey, Blakeney Friary Hills, Blakeney Point, Salthouse, High Kelling, East Runton, Muckleburgh Hill, Cromer, Overstrand, Trimingham, Eccles and Waxham. Singles inland during this time Strumpshaw Fen Oct 19th and 30th and High Kelling 22nd. Later birds Holkham Meals 24th, Holme and Hopton 31st, Hickling Broad and Holkham Meals Nov 7th and Wells Woods 8th.

HUME'S WARBLER (Hume's Leaf Warbler) *Phylloscopus humei*

Very rare vagrant.

Two typically late autumn records: Holme (trapped) Nov 22nd/23rd (SB *et al.*) and Wells Woods Nov 29th-Dec 3rd (SMW *et al.*).

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Rare vagrant.

Four records in the typical late Sept/early Oct period: Stiffkey Meals Sept 26th/27th (AMcE, JRMcC), first-winter Blakeney Point Sept 28th (AMS *et al.*), Yarmouth Cemetery Oct 9th (JRL, AW *et al.*) and Warham Greens Oct 10th (SJW *et al.*).

Radde's Warbler (*James McCallum*)

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*

Very rare vagrant.

Two records: Eccles May 14th (PJH, AJK *et al.*) and Wells Woods Sept 26th-28th (SJW *et al.*).

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

A better year, 7 in spring with singles Blakeney Point April 25th, Lynford Arboretum May 1st, Titchwell 2nd, Gorleston 4th, Felbrigg 13th, Swanton Novers 15th and Gorleston 28th.

After an absence last autumn 8 in autumn when singles Holme Aug 30th/31st, Wells Sept 7th, Holkham Meals 27th-29th, Walsey Hills and Sheringham BO 27th, Titchwell 28th, Thornham 29th and Holkham Oct 2nd.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Nominate form a common summer visitor and passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Scandinavian form *abietinus* (Scandinavian Chiffchaff) a scarce passage migrant. Siberian form *tristis/'fulvescens'* (Siberian Chiffchaff) a very scarce autumn passage migrant. Green List (nominate).

Chiffchaff and Scandinavian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus* (*collybita*) *collybita* and *abietinus*

Perhaps as a result of a colder than usual winter relatively few in the first winter period when up to 4 North Walsham Sewage Farm and 1-2 Costessey, Holme, Holkham Park, Kelling Heath, Norwich Stafford Street, Stiffkey and Wymondham.

First returning migrants mid-March when 3 Sculthopre Moor 15th, Flitcham, Holkham and Thetford Nunnery Lake 17th and Blakeney Point, Burnham Norton, Hethel, Themelthorpe, Titchwell and Weybourne 18th. Good numbers continued to appear throughout the rest of March when best counts 5 Hopton 22nd, 9 Cromer GC and 8 Holme 23rd, 12 Holme, 8 Thetford Nunnery Lakes and 7 Snettisham 24th, 24 Holme and 10 Kelling 25th, 14 Holkham and 8 Weybourne 26th, 9 Sparham Pools 26th and 6 Ickburgh and Titchwell 30th. Most breeding birds were back on territory by mid-April, though migrants continued to move through during April and May, most noteworthy counts during this period all April when 12 Felbrigg and 8 Stiffkey 3rd, 5 Scolt Head, 6 Stiffkey and 4 Blakeney Point 6th, 18 Holme 7th, 12 Swanton Morley GP 9th, 10 Norwich Mousehold Heath 14th and 10 Hoe 18th. Late migrants June Wells East Hills 1st, Scolt Head 2nd, Blakeney Point 6th, Scolt Head and Weybourne 7th and Weybourne 13th.

Though breeding birds widespread, breeding data limited with singing males/territories reported as follows: 19 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 16 Hoveton Park, 11 Long Stratton Tyrrell's Wood and 4 Hickling Broad. Recorded in 53 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

In July singles Blakeney Point 7th and 12th-14th were hard to assign to either passage period but 1 Scolt Head 30th was probably an early autumn migrant. Passage during the first part of the autumn was uninspiring with best counts 10 Holme Aug 30th, 6 Wells East Hills 31st, 30 Titchwell Sept 7th and 12 Old Hunstanton 11th. Good numbers in a fall of common migrants Sept 27th-30th, when 30 Holme, 20 Wells Woods, 21 Blakeney Point, 21 Salthouse, 21 Overstrand, 8 Winterton and 20 Yarmouth Cemetery. Good numbers continued to be reported over the next few days, with an impressive arrival Oct 8th-11th when 40 Holme, 250 Scolt Head, 20 Burnham Overy Dunes, 30 Wells Woods, 30 Wells East Hills, 13 Stiffkey, 130 Blakeney Point, 14 Kelling WM, 13 Sheringham, 35 Overstrand, 12 Trimingham, 30 Happisburgh, 20 Winterton and 20 Yarmouth. Fewer during rest of Oct when peak counts 11 Winterton 15th and 20 Holkham 27th.

Small numbers of migrants continued to move through until mid-Nov, after which 1-2 till end of year Caister, Choseley, Cromer STW, Gorleston, Holme, Hopton, Nar Valley Fisheries, Sheringham, Swanton Morley, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Titchwell, Wells Woods, Welney and Yarmouth Cemetery.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus* (*collybita*) *tristis/'fulvescens'*

High Kelling Oct 31st (NRR) and Holme Nov 16th (GA, SB). A bird at Blakeney Point Oct 9th (see Plates) showed characters of either '*fulvescens*' or '*riphaeus*'.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Weybourne Nov 4th/5th 2009 (M&BG).

IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus ibericus*

Very rare vagrant.

Singing males Stiffkey Fen April 3rd (AMcE, JRMcC *et al.*) and Titchwell April 29th/30th (AMS *et al.*) - the second and third records for the county. See articles for full details.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Nominate form a common summer visitor and passage migrant. Northern and eastern form *acredula* (Northern Willow Warbler) a scarce passage migrant. Birds showing characters of the Siberian form *yakutensis* (Eastern Willow Warbler) noted on at least two occasions. Amber List (nominate).

First migrants in final week of March when Holme and 2 Titchwell 24th, Hunstanton, Holme, 3 Wells and 1 Cley 25th, Sparham Pools and Titchwell 26th, Potter Heigham 27th, Bintree and Kelling WM 28th, 3 Strumpshaw Fen 30th and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 31st. Further arrivals throughout April but inland counts poor, best 10 Horsey Mere 6th, 10 Kelling Heath 7th, 9 Rockland Broad 9th and 9 Strumpshaw Fen 21st. Passage through coastal sites April much better including 21 Blakeney Point 8th, 16 Strumpshaw Fen 23rd, 10 Snettisham, 45 Holme and 12 Scolt Head 24th, 8 Titchwell, 10 Scolt Head, 30 Stiffkey, 9 Blakeney Point and 10 Northrepps 25th, 26 Scolt Head 28th and 12 29th. Passage much lighter in May when 8 Holme 1st, 8 Blakeney Point 14th with last of spring 2 Blakeney Point June 2nd.

Though still reported as declining by many observers, a welcome increase in the quantity and quality of breeding data supplied, singing males/territories as follows: 90 Hickling Broad, 49 Mid-Yare RSPB, 36 Catfield Fen, 25 Brettenham Heath, 15 Bintree, 12 Kettlestone, 8 Swanton Morley GP, 5 Weeting and 4 Ringstead Courtyard Farm. Recorded in 20 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Return passage in autumn from early Aug when Southrepps 2nd, 2 Holme 5th and 2 Scolt Head 9th. Peak numbers Aug 14th/15th when 30 Holme, 12 Scolt Head and 25 Blakeney Point. Further arrivals later in month when 20 Holme and 15 Scolt Head 23rd, 20 Holme, 7 Scolt Head, 4 Blakeney Point and 3 Trimingham 27th and 40 Holme 30th. Highest counts of autumn Sept 6th-9th when 30 Holme, 43 Scolt Head, 6 Stiffkey and 55 Blakeney Point. Counts low during rest of Sept until small 'fall' 27th-30th when 10 Holme, 5 Blakeney Point, 7 Salthouse, 3 Sheringham and 15 Yarmouth Cemetery. An *acredula/yakutensis*-type Blakeney Point Oct 5th.

More than usual during Oct when in first 10 days of month 5 Yarmouth Cemetery 2nd, 3 Blakeney Point 4th, 3 Stiffkey 10th and 1-2 at 13 other sites. Last of year 2 Holme Oct 11th and singles Weybourne 16th, Holme 18th and Titchwell Nov 2nd.

BLACKCAP (Eurasian Blackcap) *Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, very scarce in winter. Green List.

In first winter period records from 32 sites, including up to 3 Foulsham and New Costessey and 1-2 Admiralty Point, Aylsham, Beachamwell, Blakeney, Blofield Heath, Bowthorpe, Bramerton, Brundall, Caister, Cley, Edgefield, Flesthorpe, Great Ellingham, Kelling WM, Langham, Lynford Arboretum, Methwold, Norwich, Reepham, River Tud, Roydon Common, Saham Toney, Salthouse, Sculthorpe, Sheringham, Stiffkey, Swaffham, Thorpe St. Andrew, Weybourne and Wroxham.

With so many over-wintering birds, it is difficult to be sure when the first true migrants began to appear, but definite increase in numbers late March, when Strumpshaw 25th, Attleborough, Cromer, Overstrand, Holkham Meals and Holkham Park 26th and at many additional sites by the end of the month. Spring passage until early June, peak spring counts April when 15 Holme and 5 Ringstead April 7th, 10 Brancaster Thompson Farms 10th, 25 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 10 Holme 24th, 28 Holme, 10 Northrepps and 20 Titchwell 25th. Late migrants Blakeney Point June 1st, Scolt Head 2nd-4th and Blakeney Point 8th.

Widespread during the breeding season when counts of singing males/pairs: 114 Hoveton Park Estate, 37 Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 23 Hickling Broad, 13 Old Catton, 10 Bintree, 9 Weeting, 6-8 Brancaster Thompson Farms, 5 Swanton Morley GP and smaller numbers at a number of sites. Recorded in 62 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

At Brancaster Thompson Farms total of 216 new birds ringed during the year, presumably a mix of breeding birds and passage migrants.

Autumn passage underway from mid-Aug but apart from 20 Titchwell Aug 31st and 50 there

Sept 4th, most counts poor until several falls of migrants second half Sept/Oct, when peak counts 30 Holme Sept 22nd, 10 Holme, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes, 12 Wells, 15 Wells East Hills, 10 Stiffkey, 10 Blakeney Point and 5 Overstrand 27th, 20 Holme, 26 Blakeney Point and 10 Kelling WM 28th, 20 Sheringham 29th, 10 Holme Oct 5th, 20 Holme and 11 Blakeney Point 9th, 12 Scolt Head, 6 Stiffkey, 10 Blakeney Point and 15 Sheringham 10th, 25 Holme 11th, 15 Wells East Hills 13th and 10 Wells 14th.

Small numbers of migrants until second week in Nov, after which 1-2 wintering birds Beachamwell, Beeston, Brancaster Thompson Farm, Burnham Overy Dunes, Cromer, Holme, Kelling, Langham, Mulbarton, River Tud, New Costessey, Stiffkey, Taverham, Thorpe Market, Weybourne, Wighton, Winterton, Wiveton and Yarmouth.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin borin*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.

A little earlier than usual to arrive with first Aylsham April 15th, Surlingham Church Marsh 16th, Gorleston and 2 Roydon Common 18th and Titchwell 20th. Recorded at 16 additional sites by end of April including 4 Ormesby Little Broad 27th and 4 Happisburgh 30th. Further new arrivals at breeding sites through until end of May, best counts during month 8 West Acre and 6 Thetford along Little Ouse 4th, 4 Sparham Pools 18th, 4 Kelling Heath 22nd and 4 Swanton Morley GP 29th. Light passage through coastal sites, including 2 Scolt Head and Sheringham BO April 28th, 2 Scolt Head May 15th and 3 25th and late migrants Cley June 7th and Blakeney Point 10th.

Singing birds widespread in small numbers during breeding season with 4 Cranwich Heath, Hempton, Kelling Heath and Swanton Morley GP and 1-2 Bradenham, Brettenham Heath, Colney, East Beckham, East Bilney, East Harling, Feltwell, Filby Broad, Hockham, Hoe, Hoveton Park, Kettlestone, Leziate, Marham Fen, Marsham Heath, Nar Valley Fisheries, Newton, Norwich Sweet Briar Meadow, Pensthorpe, Pentney GP, Pentney Heath, Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringland, Rockland, Rollesby, Sculthorpe Moor, Sheringham BO, South Acre, Spixworth, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, Wells Woods and West Acre. Recorded in 10 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Return passage from mid-Aug when 5 Holme, 4 Scolt Head and 6 Blakeney Point 14th/15th, but few others during rest of month when best counts 7 Holme 27th and 3 Blakeney Point 28th. Few Sept until increase in numbers during fall of migrants Sept 27th-30th when 12 Holme, 4 Burnham Deepdale, 5 Burnham Overy Dunes, 13 Blakeney Point, 12 Walsey Hills, 4 Salthouse, 5 Kelling WM and 5 Sheringham BO. Small numbers throughout the first half of Oct including 6 Holme 11th, after which 2 Trimingham 15th and singles Holme and Burnham Deepdale 17th.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

Nominate form a very scarce autumn passage migrant, recorded only once in spring. Central Asian and southern Siberian form *merzbacheri* may also occur.

An excellent autumn with around 45-47 - one of the best years ever. First Aug when Blakeney Point 17th, Burnham Overy Dunes 27th, up to 2 Holme 27th-31st, Scolt Head and Wells 27th, Blakeney Point 28th-31st, Winterton 29th, Scolt Head, Warham Greens, Stiffkey and Weybourne 31st. In Sept Blakeney Point 1st, 3 Holme 3rd/4th, 5th-13th and 17th-19th, Beeston Bump 4th, Stiffkey 4th/5th, Warham Greens 5th, Weybourne, Waxham and Winterton 6th, Eccles and Horsey 7th, Warham Greens and Winterton 8th, Eccles 9th, Warham Greens 18th-21st, Salthouse 26th, Scolt Head, Warham and Stiffkey 27th, Wells East Hills 27th and 3 28th, Holkham 28th/29th, Kelling WM and Yarmouth South Denes 28th, Wells 29th/30th, Titchwell and Warham Greens 30th. Reasonable numbers still Oct when singles Salthouse 2nd, Kelling WM 4th-10th, Weybourne 8th, Holme 11th, Burgh Castle 17th and last of year Kelling WM 27th.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Nominate form a fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Birds showing characters of the Siberian form *blythi* (Siberian Lesser Whitethroat) and the Central Asian forms *halimodendri* and *minula* (Central Asian Lesser Whitethroat and Desert Lesser Whitethroat), known collectively here as 'Eastern Lesser Whitethroat', noted occasionally in late autumn. Green List (nominate).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca curruca*

In line with recent years earlier arrival than average, first Holme April 10th, Hopton and Kelling WM 16th, Kelling WM, Stiffkey Fen and Warham 17th and at 6 sites 18th. Recorded at total of 45 sites by end of April and a further 33 sites by end of May, peak counts 4 Snettisham CP April 19th, 5 Holme, 5 Titchwell and 11 Stiffkey 24th, 7 Holme and 12 Stiffkey 25th, 11 Snettisham 26th, 6 Holme, 4 Kelling WM and 5 Winterton 29th, 7 Holme and 11 Cringleford May 14th and 10 Sheringham 15th. Late coastal migrants 4 Blakeney Point May 31st and one June 1st.

Many singing birds reported during the breeding season including 22 Holkham NNR, 14 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 5 Holme and 1-3 at Barton Bendish, Blakeney Friary Hills, Bowthorpe, Bradenham, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Burgh Common, Castle Acre, Cley, Cringleford, Cromer, Dersingham, East Beckham, East Ruston, Felbrigg, Foulsham, Glandford, Great Cressingham, Guist, Hoveton Park, Long Stratton, Martham, Narborough, Newton, Norwich Bunker's Hill, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Roydon Common, Salthouse, Snettisham, Swaffham, Tharston, Thornham Farms, Thorpe Marshes, Trimingham, Walsey Hills, Warham, Weasenham, West Raynham, West Walton and Weybourne. Recorded in 16 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn passage from early Aug, peak numbers in second half Aug/first half Sept when peak counts 5 Holme, 10 Scolt Head and 6 Blakeney Point Aug 23rd, 15 Holme 25th, 20 Holme 27th, 12 Holme, 10 Titchwell and 10 Warham Greens Sept 4th, 12 Holme and 5 Stiffkey 5th and 12 Scolt Head 7th. Smaller numbers until mid-Oct after which 2 Burnham Overy 19th, 2 Holme 20th and singles Somerton Holmes 22nd, Horsey Gap 24th and last Holme 21st-31st.

'Eastern Lesser Whitethroat' *Sylvia curruca blythi/halimodendri/minula*

The status of eastern forms in Britain is not clear and good quality submissions are sought by BBRC. However, to avoid records being 'lost', submissions are being assessed locally on an informal basis and published as 'Eastern Lesser Whitethroat' (i.e. showing characters of a form other than *curruca*) pending further BBRC work on this group (see Norfolk Bird Report 2009).

Individuals showing characters of an eastern form Wells Woods Sept 28th (JRMcC), Holme Oct 11th-Nov 7th (CDR, GA, SB) and Stiffkey Oct 17th (AMcE, JRMcC).

WHITETHROAT (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis*

Nominate form a common summer visitor and passage migrant. A bird showing characters of the south-west Asian form *icterops* (Eastern Whitethroat) noted on one occasion. Amber List (nominate).

Once again a number of very early returning migrants, first Snettisham CP April 4th, Hopton 6th, Cley and Snettisham 8th, Snettisham 11th, Breydon 12th, Kelling Heath 14th with much more widespread arrival 17th/18th. Most migrants arrived during the final week of April when highest counts 15 Snettisham 24th, 9 Holme, 11 Scolt Head, 15 Stiffkey, 8 Blakeney Point and 11 Cley 25th, 30 Snettisham and 10 Sea Palling 26th, 10 Ringstead Courtyard Farm and 7 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 27th, 14 Scolt Head and 11 Kelling WM 28th, 20 East Rudham and 8 Winterton 29th. Late migrants Blakeney Point June 1st-4th and 10th.

Singing males/breeding pairs present throughout the county during the late spring/summer, peak count of singing males 48 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 17 Clenchwarton, 14 Weybourne, 13 Hickling Broad, 11 Bowthorpe Marshes and Holme, 10 Sea Palling, 9 Swanton Morley GP, 8 Roydon Common, 7 Scolt Head and Welney. Recorded in 61 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Return migrants from Aug 13th, peaks counts during month were probably a mix of migrants and local breeders with 11 Gorleston 15th and 12 17th, 15 Terrington and Kelling WM 22nd, 25 Holme 25th, 25 Holme and 11 Blakeney Point 27th and 20 Holme 30th/31st. Peak counts Sept during first week of month when several influxes of migrants to coastal sites, including 20 Titchwell and 15 Stiffkey 4th, 20 Holme and 25 Stiffkey 5th and 15 Holme, 11 Scolt Head, 8 Salthouse and 11 Sheringham 7th. Far fewer during rest of Sept, with final birds of year Oct when singles Winterton 2nd, Trimingham 4th, Happisburgh 6th, Blakeney Point 8th/9th, Stiffkey and Trimingham 9th and last Holme and Sheringham 10th.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata dartfordiensis*

Very scarce, though increasing, resident and migrant. Amber List.

Once again present throughout the year Kelling Heath where at least 1 pair bred fledging 5 young. During Jan-Feb a female and 2 males present with a female and 3 males March-April, a female and 4 males May with similar numbers June-Sept plus the fledged young from early June. Much scarcer towards the end of the year in cold weather and heavy snow with 6 still present Nov 14th, after which only record Dec 6th.

Far fewer elsewhere this year, only records male Hopton Feb 24th and March 17th-19th (presumed same) and a male Winterton March 8th-14th.

Dartford Warbler (*Phil Jones*)

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*

Nominate western Mediterranean form (Western Subalpine Warbler) a rare vagrant. South-east European form *albistriata* (Eastern Subalpine Warbler) a very rare vagrant.

A male western bird Blakeney Point June 6th/7th (JRMcC *et al.*). Though this bird could well have been of the nominate form, it was especially orange-toned below, raising the possibility that it might have been of the North African form *inornata* (which is also included within Western Subalpine Warbler).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia naevia*

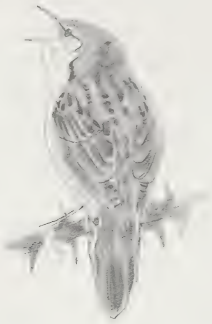
Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

First in spring Snettisham CP April 6th, Holme and Snettisham CP 9th, Snettisham CP 11th, Scolt Head 17th and at 9 sites 18th. By the end of April birds had been recorded at 32 sites, including 5 Snettisham CP 18th, 6 Barton Turf 21st, 7 Dersingham Bog and 6 Scolt Head 22nd, 7 Strumpshaw Fen 25th, 7 Snettisham CP 27th and 7 Scolt Head 30th.

It was hard to differentiate between breeders and migrants but assuming most of the singing birds reported during the spring remained to breed, a total of 127 singing males was reported from 52 sites. Singing males: 6 Barton Turf, Berney, 3 Blakeney GM, 3 Brancaster, Buckenham Tofts, Burgh Common, 3 Catfield Fen, 4 Cley, Cockley Cley, Costessey, Cranwich Heath, Cringleford, 7 Dersingham Bog, Glandford, Guist Common, Hempton, Hickling Broad, Hingham, 6 Holkham

NNR, 4 Holme, Horsey, 2 Kelling WM, Kettlestone, King's Lynn, Langford, 2 Lynford Arboretum, Mid-Yare RSPB, 2 Northrepps, 2 Norwich Marston Marsh, Ormesby Little Broad, 6 Ranworth Marshes, Rockland Broad, 3 Roydon Common, Scarning, 8 Scolt Head, Sculthorpe Moor, 7 Snettisham CP, Sparham GP, 3 Stiffkey, Stiffkey Fen, Stoke Ferry, 7 Strumpshaw Fen, 3 Surlingham Church Marsh, Thorpe St. Andrew Station Marsh, 2 Titchwell, 2 UEA Broad, 3 Upton Fen, Waxham, 2 Wells, 2 Welney, West Harling, 3 Weybourne and Wissington BF.

Total of least 12 migrants in autumn, most Blakeney Point where one Aug 13th-17th, 20th, 3 27th, one 30th, 2 Sept 2nd, one 25th/26th, 3 27th and one 28th. Elsewhere singles Holme Sept 26th/27th, Burnham Overy Dunes 28th and last of year Holme 29th.



Grasshopper Warbler (*James McCallum*)

RIVER WARBLER *Locustella fluviatilis*

Very rare vagrant.

A singing male Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe July 2nd-16th (A&CA *et al.*) was one of the year's undoubted highlights. This is only the third record for the county following those at Roydon in 1981 and Boughton Fen in 1989. See article for full details.

River Warbler (*Phil Jones*)

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides*

Very rare vagrant.

Three records, all of singing males: Stiffkey Fen May 23rd (MA, AMcE *et al.*), How Hill June 6th-12th (TA, PJH, AJK) and an undisclosed site in the Broads June 29th-July 7th (MG).

BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata*
Very rare vagrant.
Blakeney Point Aug 27th (JC, PN, ES *et al.*).

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*
Very scarce, occasionally scarce, passage migrant.
Two in spring, singles Trimingham May 27th and a singing male Burnham Overy Dunes/Holkham May 31st-June 1st.

An excellent autumn with 14 noted, the most since 2002: Blakeney Point Aug 13th, another 14th/15th, Burnham Overy Staithe 15th, Scolt Head and Burnham Overy Dunes 23rd, Holme 27th/28th, Walsey Hills 27th/28th, Scolt Head 30th, Walsey Hills Sept 1st-4th, Wells East Hills and Sheringham BO 3rd, Scolt Head 7th, Walsey Hills 8th/9th and Scolt Head 28th.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.
First birds arrived simultaneously at several sites end March when 5 Strumpshaw and singles Titchwell and Welney 30th, followed in early April by new birds Cley 3rd, Holme and Blakeney 4th, Strumpshaw, Welney and Weybourne 5th. By mid-April records from 20 sites, but numbers low until second half of month when highest counts 18 Snettisham CP 19th, 12 Hardley Flood 22nd, 20 Holme, 11 Cringleford, 15 Snettisham and Welney 24th, 15 Cley 25th and 25 Holme 29th. Most breeding birds had arrived by the end of the first week in May, after which only definite coastal migrants Scolt Head May 15th and 25th.

Breeding data received excellent, singing males as follows: 170 Holkham NNR, 161 Mid-Yare RSPB, 107 Hickling Broad, 38 Welney, 34 Catfield Fen, 24 Cley, 17 Burnham Deepdale, 16 Wickhampton, 14 Cringleford, 10 Langley, 9 Swanton Morley GP, 8 Weybourne and King's Lynn (Old Beet Factory), 6 Marlingford Mere, 2 Kelling WM and singles Blakeney Point, Glandford and Saxlingham.

Autumn passage from late July, when 30 Chedgrave Marshes July 31st (20 ringed). Coastal migrants from at least mid-Aug when 6 Blakeney Point 14th. More than usual late Aug/early Sept which may have included a mix of migrants and lingering summer visitors with 18 Holme Aug 25th, 17 ringed Thornham Farms and 4 Cley Sept 1st and 8 Holme 3rd. By mid-Sept very few remained. Last Cley 16th, Holme 17th, Burnham Overy 22nd, Kelling WM 28th, Holme 29th and Sculthorpe Moor 30th.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Very rare vagrant.
Adult Wells East Hills Sept 28th (JRMcC, RGM, SJW).

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*
Very scarce passage migrant in spring. Red List.
An excellent year, with breeding confirmed at a site in the east of the county, first sighting May 28th and last Aug 23rd (INS *et al.*) - see article for full details. Three other singing males in spring/summer: Gramborough Hill, Salthouse June 1st (JEDF *et al.*), Eccles June 7th (PJH) and withheld locality July 2nd-8th (PJH).

More unusually, 3 were identified in autumn: Blakeney Point Aug 23rd (JRMcC *et al.*) and Sept 8th (AMS *et al.*) and Happisburgh Oct 4th-6th (RM *et al.*).

REED WARBLER (Eurasian Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus scirpaceus scirpaceus*
Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Green List.
Slightly later to arrive than in recent years, with none until second half of April when first 4

Brancaster April 17th, 1 Cley, 3 Cringleford and 1 Sculthorpe Moor 18th and 2 East Ruston and 1 Swanton Morley GP 20th. New arrivals daily during the rest of month, with records from 19 additional sites before the month end, including 7 Welney 24th and 5 Titchwell 27th, and most breeding birds back by mid-May. Obvious migrants away from typical breeding habitat Paston April 29th, 2 Blakeney Point and 1 Happisburgh May 29th, Southrepps June 1st, Overstrand 4th, Lessingham 8th and 2 Blakeney Point 9th.

Good numbers of singing males recorded during the breeding season: 256 Hickling Broad, 132 Mid-Yare RSPB, 35 Welney, 21 Buckenham Marshes, 19 Burnham Deepdale, 13 Catfield Fen and Cley, 12 King's Lynn (Old Beet Factory), 8 Weybourne, 5 Kelling WM, 3 Marlingford Mere and 1 Taverham GC.

As usual good numbers passed through Chedgrave Marshes where 60 (46 ringed) July 24th and 50 (34 ringed) 31st. Elsewhere in the early autumn 12 ringed Beetley Common Aug 2nd, 10 ringed Guist Common 5th and 11 Pensthorpe 18th. Small numbers of migrants began to appear at well-watched coastal sites during the last week of Aug when 3 Blakeney Point 23rd, 2 Blakeney Point and one Sheringham 27th and Scolt Head 30th. Apart from 30 trapped and ringed Thornham Farms Sept 1st few other records during the month until small influx of migrants at month end when 4 Blakeney Point and one Holme 27th, 8 Holme and 2 Walsey Hills 28th and 4 Holme 30th. Further migrants continued to appear during the first half of Oct when 6 Holme, singles Hickling Broad and Wells Woods 2nd, Holme 7th, 2 Sheringham BO 8th, Weybourne 9th, 6 Holme and singles Stiffkey, Blakeney Point and Sheringham GC 10th, Holme 12th, Thetford Nunnery 15th and last of year Holkham Meals 17th.

WAXWING (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus garrulus*

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor, in some years very scarce, in others fairly common. Green List.

Despite the very few records in autumn 2009, reports of 1-4 birds received from 20 localities around the county in Jan and the first half of Feb. A small influx noted mid-Feb, with a peak of 22 in the favoured housing estates of Thorpe St. Andrew 13th-17th, 25 Cromer 16th, 6 Gorleston 23rd (and 12 24th) and scattered ones and twos elsewhere. Widely scattered records of 1-7 throughout March and 4 in Old Catton lingered until April 12th.

A massive autumn influx began Oct 6th with a single Northrepps, thereafter birds recorded throughout the county and many hundreds of records received. Largest counts included: *20th* 14 High Kelling, 6 Lakenham and 4 west Titchwell; *21st* 25 Cley, 38 Holme, 21 Holt, 60 south Hunstanton, 11 Kelling and 28 west Titchwell; *22nd* 15 west Burnham Overy Staithe, 26 Cromer, 48 Holme and 35 west Titchwell; *23rd-28th* a total of 121 moving largely west through the Tud Valley at Old Costessey; *24th* 25 Holme, 22 Hunstanton and 10 Snettisham; *25th* 20 Aylsham, 20 Blakeney, 8 Burgh Castle, 26 Burnham Norton, 30 Holme, 84 Hunstanton, 15 Snettisham, 69 west Stiffkey, 55 west Titchwell and 18 Weybourne; *26th* 15 west Cley, 20 Holt, 25 Hunstanton and 34 Yarmouth (peaking at 62 28th); *27th* 12 Bircham Newton, 15 Blackborough End, 10 Burnham Overy, 31 southwest Fakenham, 14 Holme, 50 North Walsham, 16 New Catton and 33 UEA; *28th* 30 Colney, 20 North Wootton and 30 Sandringham; *30th* 30 Ten Mile Bank, 24 west Breydon; *31st* 10 Banham, 50 around Norwich and 50 Yarmouth. In Nov the largest gatherings consolidated at various sites in Norwich (with aggregated counts of 150 7th, 235 10th, 495 12th, 347 13th and 210 19th) and around Pasteur Road, Yarmouth where the flock built to a peak of 147 9th. Large Nov flocks at other localities included: *3rd* 50 Coltishall and 40 West Somerton; *4th* 20 Colney and 12 Sheringham; *5th* 12 Weybourne, 15 over Holkham; *6th* 12 Reepham; *7th* 40 in off the sea Cley, 45 Hellesdon, 14 Holme, 16 over Sculthorpe, 15 South Wootton and 15 Weybourne; *8th* 33 in off the sea Sheringham; *9th* 11 Flitcham, 15 Gayton Thorpe, 22 King's Lynn and 13 South Acre; *10th* 70 Thetford; *14th* 32 Ringland; *15th* 20 Coltishall and 21 Gorleston; *16th* 13 Strumpshaw; *17th* 11 Flitcham; *18th* 13 Tasburgh; *19th* 50 Aylsham (increasing to 100 by 21st and 130 27th), 10 Cawston (increasing to 40 on 24th and 100 29th), 15 Loddon and 10 Marsham; *20th* 60 Costessey; *21st* 15 Buxton Heath and 20 Swafield; *22nd* 9 Harleston and 50 Taverham; *23rd* 16 Wereham; *24th* 18 Marham; *26th* 11

Lyng, 20 Snettisham, 15 Swaffham, 10 Thornham, 13 Wissington BF (increasing to 28 28th) and 20 Wiveton; *27th* 11 north Foulden Common; *28th* 40 Cawston Heath; *29th* Catfield 150 and 20 Dereham; *30th* 210 Stalham, 25 Weybourne and 16 Winfarthing. Many still present throughout the county until year end with Norwich continuing to provide the largest Dec counts: 160 2nd, 222 9th and 149 11th. Elsewhere, large gatherings included: *1st* 15 Tasburgh; *2nd* 30 northwest Acle, 20 Swafield, 30 West Somerton and 40 Yarmouth (with 55 11th); *4th* 10 Diss (increasing to 20 by 9th) and 15 northwest Trimingham; *5th* 20 Brancaster and Burnham Overy Staithe, 135 Cawston, 50 west Cley, 17 south Snettisham and 30 Weybourne; *6th* 20 Holme; *7th* 24 Cley, 10 Elsing/Lyng and 12 Ranworth ; *8th* 40 Gorleston, 10 Long Stratton (increasing to 23 9th), 20 Scole and 20 Strumpshaw; *9th* 10 Beetley, 20 Cley and 11 Cromer; *10th* 10 Hunstanton and 138 Snettisham; *12th* 19 west Costessey; *13th* 56 Gorleston; *16th* 20 east Weybourne; *18th* 12 Beeston Regis; *19th* 9 Rockland Broad; *20th* 12 west Wiveton; *23rd* 17 King's Lynn; *24th* 26 Potter Heigham; *25th* 10 Elsing and 8 Tilney All Saints; *26th* 23 Blakeney/Cley, 34 Methwold and 20 Southrepps; *27th* 10 Brancaster, 10 Denver Sluice/Downham Market, 15 Long Stratton, 15 Overstrand and 20 Thornham; *29th* 40 Swaffham; *31st* 10 Holme, 38 west Roydon, 10 Terrington and 11 Thornham.

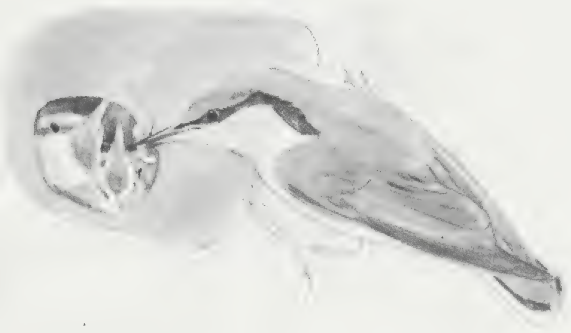
NUTHATCH (Eurasian Nuthatch) *Sitta europaea caesia*

Fairly common resident. Green List.

In first winter period highest counts 6 Hockham Hall and 5 Bayfield Hall in March.

Breeding: 5 pairs bred Hoveton Park, the same number as in 2009. Recorded in 5 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

A single at the unusual coastal location of Titchwell March 24th and presumed same subsequently June 27th, July 10th, Aug 7th and 25th, also singles Holme April 19th and Sept 3rd and moving west Mundesley June 24th.



Nuthatch feeding young (*James McCallum*)

TREECREEPER (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*

British form *britannica* a fairly common resident. Nominate Scandinavian and eastern European form (Northern Treecreeper) a very rare vagrant. Amber List (*britannica*).

Counts of 7 Sheringham Park Feb and 6 Blakeney GM May 15th were the highest for the year.

Breeding: 6 pairs bred Hoveton Park, 3 pairs Tyrrell's Wood Long Stratton. Recorded in 9 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Away from breeding sites: Titchwell June 6th (and then present to the end of the year with 2 Dec 27th), Holme June 30th, Aug 23rd and Sept 11th, Scolt Head Aug 14th, Walsey Hills Cley Aug 23rd and Sept 27th, Waxham Oct 12th and Overstrand 19th.

A bird of the nominate form trapped Kelling Dec 11th (AC, ES). See article for details.

WREN (Winter Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes*

British form *indigenus* (British Wren) an abundant resident. Nominate European form (European Wren) may also occur. Green List.

In first winter period, interesting communal roost records of 8 in a nestbox Cranwich Jan 1st and 13 in House Martin nests Hindringham March 7th (and 16 using the same roost in Dec).

Breeding records of pairs/singing males (2009 totals in brackets): 15 Blakeney Point (12), 86 Hickling, 24 Hoveton Park, 36 Tyrell's Wood, Long Stratton (31), 43 Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 57 Scolt Head (52), 14 Welney (13) and 3 Weybourne. Recorded in 68 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Large autumn counts received only from Holme where monthly max 20 Oct and 9 Nov.

STARLING (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

Significant concentrations at start of year: 4000 (roost) Thetford, 7500 Old Catton, 5000 Yarmouth.

Return passage: *March* 315 south Hunstanton 17th, 3160 east Paston 22nd, 1050 Paston 23rd, 245 Winterton 24th.

Recorded in 37 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Summer/coastal movements: *June* west over Scolt Head 50 22nd, 3536 23rd, 249 25th, 4036 26th; *July* 40 west Scolt Head 7th.

Autumn arrivals noted from Sept 22nd to Nov 24th peaking in the period Oct 18th-Nov 1st. Largest numbers as usual Hunstanton where total 215,072 south between dates above. Peak counts (south at Hunstanton and west along north coast): *Oct* 3200 Holme 12th, 2400 Kelling WM 12th, 205 Sheringham BO 12th, 1500 Titchwell 14th, 6250 Hunstanton 15th, 6790 Holme 17th, 3800 Hunstanton 17th, 1377 Sheringham BO 17th, 32206 Hunstanton 18th, 12000 Burnham Deepdale (feeding), 29131 Hunstanton 25th, 1250 Wells 25th, 11417 Hunstanton 26th, 120 in off the sea Happisburgh 30th, 2450 Holme 30th, 3180 Titchwell 30th, 16805 Hunstanton 31st; *Nov* 28997 Hunstanton 1st, 305 Sheringham 1st, 25000 Warham Greens 1st, 290 Cley 7th, 1270 Kelling Hard 7th, 11000 Mundesley 7th, 40426 Hunstanton 8th. Inland 24396 flew WNW River Tud Valley, New Costessey Sept 24th-Nov 22nd (peak 15386 Oct 26th).

Autumn inland and winter counts: 264 Ringstead Courtyard Farm Nov 2nd, 1000 Strumpshaw Fen Nov 13th, 1762 Welney Nov 15th, 300 (roost) Weybourne Nov 16th.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING (Rosy Starling) *Pastor roseus*

Irruptive rare vagrant.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** Juv Choseley Oct 11th 2009 (CDR, RR).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant. Red List.

First of spring March 23rd when singles Burnham Overy Dunes and Scolt Head with further singles at an additional 8 sites to month end including one well inland Upton Fen 30th. Protracted passage during April and present almost daily with 1-6 at many widely scattered sites with peak counts 10 Burnham Market and 11 Waxham, both 21st. In May 1-3 at 16 mainly coastal sites until 19th with a lingering first-year male Roydon Common June 15th. Widespread inland in spring, recorded from: Barton Turf Fen, Burnham Market, Choseley, Felthorpe, Kelling Heath, Hickling, Hindolveston, Hindringham, Hockwold, Hoveton, Langham, Northrepps, Potter Heigham, Repps-with-Bastwick, Ringstead Courtyard Farm, Roughton, Roydon Common, Rockland Broad, Strumpshaw, Stockton, Surlingham Church Marsh, Syderstone Common and Wiveton.

First of autumn Norwich Sweetbriar Marshes Sept 18th and Thetford Nunnery Sept 25th and widespread from Sept 27th when 6 Blakeney Point and 7 Burnham Overy Dunes with 6 Salthouse Heath and Winterton the following day. Present daily in first half of Oct with 1-4 at many sites with

highest counts 12 over King's Lynn 10th, 7 Wells Woods 9th and 6 Roydon Common 10th with final bird of autumn Wells Woods 29th.

BLACKBIRD (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula merula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.

Evidence of cold weather movement in Jan when up to 180 Holme 5th and 16 Blakeney Point 14th. Elsewhere double-figure counts from 11 widely scattered sites with provision of food in gardens resulting in up to 60 East Runton, 42 Binham, 32 Langham and 22 Foulsham. Only other notable counts in spring 100 Ringstead Courtyard Farm Feb 23rd and 38 Langham March 1st.

Limited breeding data but 58 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm and 10 pairs Tyrrell's Wood, Long Stratton. Recorded in 66 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn passage from Sept 27th when 17 Blakeney Point and 'large numbers' over Kelling Heath on same date. Light coastal movement throughout Oct with peak counts 200 Holme 13th, 80 Holkham 17th and 50 Burnham Overy Dunes 12th while inland 44 River Tud Valley 18th and a full albino Cley 4th. In Nov movement limited to first half of month with double-figure counts from 6 coastal and one inland site. Hard weather in Dec resulted in a pre-dawn gathering of 52 in a Langham garden waiting for apples to be put out and 37 Long Stratton also feeding on windfall apples. Additional double-figure counts 41 King's Lynn 18th, 25 Thornham Farms 27th and 30 Briston 30th.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

Widespread in Jan/Feb with flock of 1000 Thornham Jan 7th and 'many thousands' Walsoken the following day with three-figure counts from a further 16 widely scattered sites during the period. Evidence of hard weather movement in Feb when 12 Scolt Head 3rd and 20 there 20th. In March peak counts 430 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 1st, 408 Weeting 16th and 350 Feltwell Anchor 9th. Still present most days during April with 150 Poringland 11th and coastal movement 24th when 58 west Titchwell 24th with last birds of spring 6 Stanford TA 30th. A singing bird noted Burnham Deepdale 28th/29th.

Return from mid-Aug when singles Blakeney Point 14th, Overstrand 22nd and Scolt Head 23rd with 1-3 at 9 sites during Sept. Increasing numbers from mid-Oct when 300 North Elmham 15th with peak counts 3582 River Tud Valley 24th, 300 Snettisham CP and 2371 Hunstanton 21st and 1503 North Pickenham 24th. Still widespread in Nov with peak counts 601 south Hunstanton and 522 River Tud Valley 1st, 350 Methwold 10th and 250 Suffield 29th while in Dec 250 Methwold 27th, 250 Wellingham 28th and 180 North Wootton Marsh 12th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

British form *clarkei* (British Song Thrush) a common, though declining, resident. Nominate continental form (Continental Song Thrush) a common passage migrant. Red List (*clarkei*).

In early part of year double-figure counts Holme, Kelling WM, Stiffkey and Weybourne. Evidence of return passage in April when 2 Blakeney Point 2nd, 7 Gorleston 19th, 4 Scolt Head and a continental-ringed bird Weybourne 25th and single Scolt Head May 4th.

Breeding data from 121 sites with 15 territories Bintree Woods, 8 Ringstead Courtyard Farm and 6 singing males Hempnall. Recorded in 54 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

First of autumn singles Scolt Head Sept 6th (5 8th) and Blakeney Point 7th. Large movement associated with other thrushes 27th when 5000 Burnham Overy Dunes, 800 Blakeney Point, 400 Paston and 'huge influx' Southrepps with three-figure counts from a further 4 sites. Second wave of migrants Oct 8th-11th with peak counts 600 Holme 11th, 420 Blakeney Point 9th and 350 Scolt Head 10th. Few records in Nov/Dec with 16 Holme 27th likely to be as a result of cold weather movement. More unusual was a singing bird at Old Catton Nov 29th.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Nominate form a very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Icelandic form *coburni* (Icelandic Redwing) a very rare vagrant. Red List (nominate) and Green List (*coburni*).

Widespread during first winter period at many sites with peak counts 500 Thornham Jan 7th, 300 Woodton Feb 16th, 300 Gunton Park Feb 22nd and 200 Wacton Common Feb 6th. Hard weather movement evident when 8 Blakeney Point Jan 14th and one freshly dead Scolt Head Feb 11th with 96 northeast over River Tud Valley Feb 28th. Most had departed by end of March with peak counts in April being just 29 Blickling Park 8th and final birds of spring Eccles 27th and 2 Happisburgh 28th.

First of autumn Scolt Head Sept 8th quickly followed by 18 Bowthorpe Marshes Sept 11th. Widespread from Sept 28th when 550 Blakeney Point and 180 Holme with double-figure counts from a further 5 sites. In Oct increasing numbers from 8th when 1552 Wells Woods, 680 Holme and 380 Blakeney Point with 1000 Brancaster Thompson Farms and 650 Sheringham BO the following day. Further influx from mid-month when 500 River Tud Valley 15th (1119 20th) and 1800 Holme 16th with last significant movement Nov 1st when 1177 River Tud Valley. Hard weather in Dec may have been responsible for low numbers during month with peak count 100 Sheringham Cemetery and double-figure counts from just 3 sites in the west of the county.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** A bird of the Icelandic form *coburni* Walcott Jan 4th 2009 (MDF *et al.*) - the second for Norfolk. See article for full details.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus viscivorus*

Common resident. Amber List.

Only double-figure count in second-winter period 11 Titchwell Jan 23rd and little evidence of spring passage other than 3 south Hunstanton April 25th.

Breeding data included 7 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 2 pairs Tyrrell's Wood, Long Stratton and a pair raised 5 young Burnham Deepdale. Usual post-breeding flocks with highest counts 65 Sparham Aug 9th, 45 Roydon Common June 15th with double-figure counts from a further 7 sites. Recorded in 23 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

First migrants Sept 23rd when 6 south Hunstanton with 3 Southrepps 26th and single west Wells East Hills 27th. In early Oct 29 Holme likely to have been resident birds but evidence of passage 18th when 14 south Hunstanton and 17 Snettisham.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata striata*

Fairly common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Spring passage from May 1st when 2 Holme. With the exception of 10 Warham Greens May 15th and 2 Happisburgh and Blakeney 28th just singles at 7 coastal sites to month end and in June singles Blakeney Point and Eccles 1st.

Breeding confirmed or pairs present at 39 sites (slightly up on last year's 38) with double broods Barnham Broom and East Bilney although one nest at Elsing washed out by heavy overnight rain and one bird at Wighton a road casualty. In addition, singles at 14 further sites during breeding season, exactly matching last year's totals.

First coastal migrants from mid-Aug with singles Gorleston 12th and Blakeney Point 13th-14th. In Sept peak counts 13 Scolt Head 7th, 6 Blakeney Point 6th, 4 Paston 8th and 4 Holme 4th with 1-2 at many coastal sites to month end. In Oct singles in first half of month Blakeney Point, Holkham Meals, Holme and Strumpshaw Fen with final bird of year Yarmouth Cemetery 17th.

ROBIN (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula*

British form *melophilus* an abundant resident. Nominate continental form (Continental Robin) a common passage migrant and winter visitor. Green List.

Very few records received in first winter period except for peaks of 30 Surlingham Feb 13th and 13 Mousehold Heath 15th.

In breeding season 56 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm (66 territories in 2008), 30 pairs

Hoveton Park and 22 pairs Tyrrell's Wood Long Stratton (21 singing males in 2009). In addition 20, mainly juvs, Thornham Farms Brancaster (where 12 pairs in 2009). Recorded in 62 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn passage from Aug 9th included two spectacular arrival periods along the north and east coasts. At end Sept 400 Holme 27th increasing to 450 28th, 300+ Paston, 300 Burnham Overy Dunes, 282 Blakeney Point, 200 Stiffkey, 127 Cley-Salthouse Heath, 150 Holkham Meals and 100 Wells East Hills, 100 Winterton, 65 Burnham Overy Dunes, 50 Overstrand, 50 Yarmouth Cemetery and 30 Cromer GC, all 27th. Most appeared to move on quickly but 70 still Sheringham 29th. A second large-scale arrival Oct 9th-11th included peaks of 250 Holme 9th increasing to 450 by 11th, 80 Horsey-Winterton, 50 Stiffkey, 50 Scolt Head and 40 Blakeney Point 10th and 80 Blakeney Point, 60 Burnham Overy Dunes and 50 Warham Greens 11th. During both influxes several were seen to arrive almost exhausted off the sea.

Smaller numbers either lingering or additional arrivals later in the month with 75 Wells Oct 14th and 60 Holme 16th.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*

Very rare vagrant.

Singing male Walsey Hills June 1st (RGM *et al.*).

NIGHTINGALE (Common Nightingale) *Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

First returning bird Holme April 12th was at least a week ahead of the main arrival when singles Salthouse Heath 21st increasing to 3 by 28th and 4 by May 6th, Nar Valley Fisheries 23rd, East Winch and Pentney GPs 24th, Cockley Cley 27th, 2 Kelling Heath 28th, Lynford Arboretum May 1st, Blakeney Point 8th-11th and Titchwell 10th.

The decrease in singing males in the breeding season noted in the 2009 report continues (but no records from southwest Norfolk): recorded from Brundall, Feltwell, Lenwade, Pentney GP (3), Pensthorpe, Ringland, Ringstead, Salthouse Heath (3), Saham Toney and Stibbard.

Three autumn records: Alderford Common Aug 8th, Sheringham BO 28th and Blakeney Point Sept 22nd.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

Nominate Scandinavian form (Red-spotted Bluethroat) formerly a very scarce passage migrant but now a very rare vagrant. Central and southern European form *cyanecula* (White-spotted Bluethroat) a very rare vagrant.

A male White-spotted Bluethroat Welney April 23rd (LM *et al.*). Thereafter it set up territory, singing regularly, and remained until Aug 17th. Elsewhere in spring, a female (probably also *cyanecula*) Weybourne March 27th (MT).

The autumn on Blakeney Point produced the best run of records for many years with different individuals present Aug 26th (JC *et al.*), Aug 27th/28th (per Recorder) and Sept 2nd (RFP *et al.*).

White-spotted Bluethroat (*Gary Wright*)

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Very rare vagrant.

An outstanding autumn for this species: first-winter male Wells East Hills Oct 9th (JEDF, RWM, IPP), first-winter/female Burnham Overy Dunes 11th (MR *et al.*), first-winter Weybourne (trapped) 11th (MJP *et al.*), first-winter Waxham 12th-14th (RMcI *et al.*), first-winter/female Trimingham 14th-17th (MDF *et al.*) and first-winter/female Holme 17th (per Recorder).

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Europan form *gibraltariensis* a scarce passage migrant, very scarce breeder and winter visitor. Birds showing characters of the Iberian form *aterrimus* and the Central Asian form *phoenicuroides* (Eastern Black Redstart) each noted on one occasion. Amber List (*gibraltariensis*).

In first winter period (to early March) singles at 8 coastal and inland sites. Spring passage March 1st-June 2nd of singles at 37 mainly coastal sites except 2 Blakeney Point March 18th, Paston 24th, Gorleston 25th/26th, Happisburgh, Hunstanton and Winterton 26th, Potter Heigham April 1st, Northrepps 11th, 4 Blakeney Point 28th and 2 there May 31st-June 2nd.

In the breeding season at least one pair bred Yarmouth but outcome unknown. A second pair successfully raised 3 young at a site in the northwest of the county and a third pair raised 2 broods at an industrial site on the east coast. A recently fledged juv in a garden at Reedham July 16th indicated at least one other successful breeding.

Large number of mid-summer records: East Runton June 17th, Scolt Head July 1st-10th with 2 3rd, Waxham 8th, Blakeney Point 9th-12th, also 23rd and Aug 6th, Beeston Bump and Happisburgh 14th, Scolt Head 22nd and 30th and Hunstanton 25th. In Aug up to 4 present Hunstanton (to mid-Sept) from 8th, also 2 West Runton from 8th into early Oct and Weybourne 14th.

Autumn passage Sept 8th-Nov 30th, mostly singles, at 27 sites. Peaks 7 Blakeney Point and 3 Holme Oct 9th, 2 Winterton 12th, 2 Choseley Nov 7th and 2 Snettisham 8th. In Dec a male Burgh Castle 1st-14th.

REDSTART (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce, occasionally fairly common, passage migrant, mostly in autumn, and very scarce breeder. Amber List.

First of the year Tottington April 7th, a typical date, followed by others at Burnham Overy Dunes, Holkham Meals and Stiffkey 8th, East Wretham 10th, Pentney 11th and Cley 13th. Spring passage April 15th-May 26th very light, as in recent years, with singles at 19 sites and 2 Snettisham April 18th, 3 Blakeney Point 24th, 2 May 12th and 25th and 2 Wells East Hills 25th.

In breeding season at least 2 pairs probably bred Brettenham Heath. At Stanford TA one pair fledged 7 young and family parties at 4 other sites and 2 males present East Wretham Heath from early May (one present to mid-Aug). Summer records of singles Blakeney Point June 14th and Winterton July 26th.

Autumn passage Aug 13th-Oct 27th with up to 4 at 42 mainly north and east coast sites and clear arrivals in early and late Sept with peaks of 20 Holme, 26 Blakeney Point, 21 Scolt Head, 5 Stiffkey and 5 Sheringham BO Sept 5th, 10 Wells East Hills, 10 Yarmouth Cemetery 7th and 6 Sidestrand 10th. At the end of the month peaks of 60 Warham Greens-Stiffkey, 36 Blakeney Point, 20 Holme, 8 Wells East Hills, 7 Overstrand, 6 Thornham Point, 6 Burnham Overy Dunes and 5 Paston, all 27th, followed by 12 Cley-Salthouse and 7 Yarmouth Cemetery 28th, 10 Holme and 8 Sheringham 29th and 7 Paston and 5 Cromer-Trimingham 30th. Passage steadily declined through Oct except for small-scale arrivals of 10 Holme and Blakeney Point and 4 Wells East Hills 9th and 6 Yarmouth Cemetery 16th. Last Wells Oct 20th.

***CORRECTION*:** Records of the southwest Asian form *samamisicus* (Ehrenberg's Redstart) at Heacham Oct 26th 1975 and Wells Sept 12th 1989, both previously accepted by BBRC, have been reviewed and are now regarded as 'Not Proven' (as has a further unpublished claim from Wells Sept

24th 1984) whilst three other claims previously published in the Bird Report and listed in Taylor *et al.* 1999 (Sheringham Oct 24th 1994, Mundesley Sept 13th 1995 and Yarmouth Cemetery Oct 6th 1998) appear never to have been assessed by BBRC. The BBRC review has not upheld the identification of any previous claims of this form in Britain, and it is therefore to be removed from the British List. As a consequence, it is clear that *samamisicus* can have no place on the Norfolk list either and that all previous claims should be regarded as unproven.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Scarce passage migrant. Has bred. Amber List.

First of the year Holme April 22nd followed by singles Blakeney GM 23rd and Snettisham, Cley, West Runton and Buckenham Marshes 24th. Passage continued to end of month with up to 3 at 22 sites and a peak of 5 Titchwell 28th. Passage in May very light with up to 2 at 21 sites and max of 3 Holme May 1st. Mid-summer records of singles Kelling Heath June 2nd/3rd, Thornham Point 13th and Titchwell July 2nd.

Autumn passage Aug 2nd-Oct 27th, mostly of singles but up to 5 at 48 mainly coastal sites with peak movements 10 Blakeney Point Aug 23rd, 8 Scolt Head 27th-31st, 13 Scolt Head Sept 5th, 7 Horsey 6th increasing to 12 7th, 7 Waxham 7th and 7 Breydon 10th. In contrast to recent years passage continued through Oct with up to 4 at 21 sites including last of the year Wells 23rd.

STONECHAT (Eurasian Stonechat) *Saxicola torquatus*

British form *hibernans* a scarce resident and passage migrant. Continental form *rubicola* (Continental Stonechat) a scarce or very scarce passage migrant but some breeding birds are also of this form. West Siberian form *maurus* (Siberian Stonechat) a very rare vagrant. A bird showing characters of the East Siberian form *stejnegeri* (Stejneger's Stonechat) noted on one occasion. Green List (*hibernans* and *rubicola*).

Stonechat and Continental Stonechat *Saxicola* (*torquatus*) *hibernans* and *rubicola*

In first winter period pairs present at 29 sites (16 coastal and 13 inland), a huge decrease from the 56 sites recorded in 2009. In addition singles, mostly males, present at 25 other sites. Present inland at Berney, Buckenham Marshes, Cantley Marshes, Catfield Fen, Chedgrave Marshes, Dersingham Bog, Guist Common, Potter Heigham, Rockland Broad (2), Roydon Common, Sculthorpe Moor, Strumpshaw and Upton Fen.

Very little evidence of spring passage: 3 Morston March 14th, 4 Admiralty Point, 3 Blakeney Point, 6 Cley and 5 Gramborough Hill 17th, 2 Cromer GC 21st, Norwich Airport 19th-21st, 3 Blakeney Point April 19th and West Runton 24th the only notable records away from breeding sites.

Widely reported during the breeding season with about 49 pairs at 21 sites, an increase from the 34 pairs recorded in 2009 but some way below the all-time high of 69 pairs in 2008.

In autumn up to 5 at 22 sites with highest numbers either at or adjacent to breeding sites with max 12 Kelling Heath Sept 1st and 9 still present Oct 22nd. Elsewhere 5 Horsey Gap Oct 2nd and 4 Sheringham BO Oct 2nd-5th. No real evidence of passage but up to 2 Blakeney Point on 6 dates July 20th-Oct 2nd.

In second winter period pairs present at 9 mainly coastal sites.

***CORRECTION*:** The figures quoted in the 2009 Report should read as follows: 6 Holme Sept 9th (not 60) and 4 Cromer Oct 12th (not 40).

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola* (*torquatus*) *maurus*

Male Kelling WM Oct 10th (MN, NRR).

WHEATEAR (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Nominate form a fairly common passage migrant and very scarce breeder, mostly in Brecks. Greenland form *leucorhoa* (Greenland Wheatear) a fairly common passage migrant. Amber List (*oenanthe*).

First returning birds Titchwell and Sheringham BO March 18th - slightly later than in recent years, followed by others Hunstanton, Thornham Farms, Brancaster, Burnham Overy Dunes (2), Blakeney GM (3), Wells, Salthouse (2), Weybourne, Cockley Cley and Hopton 19th. From March 20th to month end recorded at 26 mainly north coast sites, peaks of 7 Cley 22nd and 10 24th, 5 Hunstanton and 6 Scolt Head 26th and 6 Blakeney Point 30th. Heavy passage in April and early May with up to 20 at 92 sites, peaks of 22 Kelling-Sheringham April 24th, 59 West Runton, 51 Scolt Head and 22 Beeston 25th, 51 Northrepps 26th, 40 Sheringham and 30 Weybourne 28th and 46 Waxham 29th. Passage declined in May with peaks of 20 Blakeney Point, 18 Stiffkey and 17 Paston 1st and 22 Breydon Water 5th. Inland, notable peaks of 12 Roydon Common April 29th increasing to 21 May 1st. In June late singles at 7 north coast sites and single mid-summer birds Kelling WM June 22nd, Breydon Water 25th and a juv Cley July 9th-20th.

Autumn passage began with singles Cley Aug 2nd, Felbrigg 5th and Cromer GC 7th. Continuous and fairly steady passage through Aug and Sept, mostly in single figures but with notable arrivals of 30 Blakeney Point and 25 Scolt Head Aug 27th, 13 Holme 30th, 17 Blakeney Point and 18 West Runton Sept 5th, 37 Scolt Head 7th, 15 Paston 13th, 50 Blakeney Point and 15 Burnham Overy Dunes 27th increasing to 24 30th and 22 Cley 30th. Passage declined through Oct with up to 10 at 32 sites: 20 Kelling WM and 15 Burnham Overy Dunes and GM 2nd, 16 Paston 3rd and 21 Blakeney Point 10th. Single Hopton Nov 5th was the only one in the month and the last of the year.

PIED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Very rare vagrant.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** First-winter female Horsey Oct 14th/15th 2009 (BJ *et al.*). A photograph of this bird was published in the 2009 Bird Report.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

Very scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn.

Another good autumn commenced Sept 26th when single Stiffkey quickly followed by 3 Wells East Hills 27th, Holkham Meals 28th/29th and Paston 29th. In Oct singles Holme 8th, Hickling Stubb Mill 13th, Holkham Meals 17th-21st and one well inland at Mid-Yare RSPB 19th.

PIED FLYCATCHER (Eurasian Pied Flycatcher) *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Nominate form a passage migrant, very scarce in spring, scarce, occasionally fairly common, in autumn. Siberian form *sibirica* (Siberian Pied Flycatcher) may also occur. Has bred. Amber List.

Scarce in April with singles Holme 19th, 2 Runcton Holme 22nd and Cromer 24th with just a single May occurrence - 3 Yarmouth Cemetery 11th.

Following single Salthouse Aug 8th, a 'fall' evident 14th when 12 Blakeney Point, 7 Scolt Head, 6 Holme and Wells East Hills with 1-4 at a further 14 mainly coastal sites. Present almost daily to month end with peak counts 17 Scolt Head 23rd, 8 Holme and 7 Wells East Hills 31st. In Sept widespread up to 12th with noticeable arrival 7th when 11 Scolt Head and 10 Wells Woods. Further arrivals from 22nd at many coastal sites with peak counts 9 Wells Woods and 7 Warham Greens. In early Oct 3 Wells Woods and Yarmouth Cemetery 2nd and 3 Holme 5th. Last of year Warham Greens 18th.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

British form *occidentalis* an abundant resident. Nominate continental form (Continental Dunnock) a scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn. Amber List (*occidentalis*).

Only evidence of spring influx 22 Hunstanton March 25th.

Largest number of breeding records of pairs/singing males (2009 records in brackets): 10 Blakeney Point (9), 25 Holme, 13 Hoveton Park, 30 Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 56 Scolt Head (61), 10 Weybourne. Recorded in 60 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn migration noted Burnham Deepdale with 5 Sept 28th and 10 30th, 4 south Hunstanton Oct 2nd. Elsewhere, large autumn counts: Holme 30 Sept 27th, 60 Oct 9th, 125 10th and 85 11th, 2 Blakeney Point Oct 11th, 20 Beeston Bump Oct 12th and 25 flushed from wild birdfood strip Sparham Dec 1st.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus domesticus*

Common resident. Red List.

Largest flocks reported during year: *Jan* 32 St. John's Fen End; *Feb* 45 Little Fransham, Dereham, 40 Caister; *March* 25 Wells, 62 Runcton Holme; *April* 40 Caister; *May* 15 Dereham; *June* 40 Caister, 50 Terrington Marsh; *July* 50 Tharston, 40 Caister, 40 Runcton Holme; *Aug* 40 Beeston Bump, 30 Runcton Holme, 60 Terrington Marsh, 150 Wacton Common, 40 Lenwade, 40 North Tuddenham; *Sept* 50 Aylmerton, 40 Winterton; *Oct* 30 Outwell, 40 North Tuddenham, 22 South Wootton; *Nov* 36 North Tuddenham, 26 Titchwell, 30 Dereham. Also 30 Ormesby St. Margaret and 30 Suffield throughout year.

Passage reported at Scolt Head, where single west April 7th, and Hunstanton, where single south April 28th. A single Blakeney Point Oct 17th was unusual.

Breeding reported: colony of around 18 Grange Farm Felmingham, 2 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 25 including fledged young Beetley, colony of 40 North Tuddenham. Recorded in 33 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

House Sparrow (*John Wagstaffe*)

TREE SPARROW (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus montanus*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

First winter period: *Jan* 32 Scarning, 30 Thornham Farms, 4 Hindringham, 3 Flitcham, 8 Massingham Heath, 11 Binham; *Feb* 40 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 2 Ashill, 11 Welney, 30 (roost) Shereford, 10 Forncett, 50 Thornham Farms, 5 Flitcham, singles Weybourne, Happisburgh, Methwold; *March* 35 Thornham Farms, single Illington, 2 Mileham, 23 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 7 Welney, 5 Foulsham, 15 North Creake, single Titchwell; *April* 2 Titchwell, 2 Hingham, 12 Holme, 8 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 5 Welney, single Hingham, 2 Mileham, 2 Rougham, 2 Besthorpe, 2 Cley, 6 Burnham Market, 2 Sidestrand; *May* 6 Burnham Market, 6 Scarning, 2 Wighton, single Massingham Heath.

Spring passage: single west Kelling Heath March 11th, 479 south Hunstanton March 18th-April 24th, 2 west Titchwell March 17th, 2 west Cromer GC 20th, 4 west Holme 23rd, 4 west Holme 25th, singles west Scolt Head April 6th and 24th.

Breeding pairs: 2 Hindringham, 4 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 4 Thornham Farms (6 broods produced 28 nestlings), 5 Wighton.

Late summer records: *July* 6 Wellingham 1st, Brancaster 3rd, Upwell 8th, 100 Thornham Farms 9th, 10 Great Massingham 19th, Titchwell 31st; *Aug* 2 Lenwade 1st, 100 Thornham Farms 3rd, 14 Scarning 8th, 9 Cantley 22nd; *Sept* single Kenninghall 1st, 40 Thornham Farms 1st, 2 Scolt Head 5th, 4 Burnham Market 9th, single Eccles 13th, single Winterton 18th, 7 Holme 21st.

At Thornham Farms a total of 255 birds trapped in summer/autumn, of which 180 were new birds and 172 known juvs.

Autumn passage/dispersal noted from Sept 11th when 4 east 5 south Holme with subsequent records 21 south Hunstanton Sept 22nd, 2 south Hunstanton 25th, 4 west Holme Oct 2nd, 5 east Holme 31st.

Autumn/second winter period records (singles unless stated): *Oct* Brancaster 9th, 16 Wellingham 16th, Great Hockham 19th, Cley 28th, 2 Great Cressingham 28th, 8 Flitcham 29th, Stiffkey Fen 30th, 2 Stanford TA 31st, Warham Greens 31st; *Nov* 3 Wighton 1st, 2 Weybourne 5th, 4 Upwell 7th, Titchwell 11th, 12 Flitcham 13th, 5 Great Cressingham 16th, 4 Thetford 20th, 2 Beeston 23rd, 4 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 24th, Winterton 27th; *Dec* 15 Welney 5th, 3 Fustyweed 18th, 25 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 19th, 20 Forncett 21st, 2 Methwold 24th, 15 Wellingham 25th.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

British form *flavissima* (Yellow Wagtail) a fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Central European and western Russian form *flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail) and Scandinavian and northern Russian form *thunbergi* (Grey-headed Wagtail) scarce passage migrants, mostly in spring. Italian form *cinereocapilla* (Ashy-headed Wagtail) and south-east European form *feldegg* (Black-headed Wagtail) very rare vagrants. A bird showing characters of the Siberian form/ species *tschutschensis* (Northeastern Yellow Wagtail) noted on one occasion. Birds previously reported as of the form *beema* (Sykes's Wagtail) now considered to have been *flavissima* x *flava* hybrids (Channel Wagtail). Red List (*flavissima*), Amber List (*flava* and *thunbergi*).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla* (*flava*) *flavissima*

First of spring Heacham and Kelling WM March 26th, Welney and Weybourne 28th, Titchwell April 1st/2nd and Pentney GP 3rd. A light passage followed to 13th mainly 1-4 but 12 Welney 7th, 14 10th, 16 11th and 5 Titchwell 9th.

Fairly good spring passage. In April total of 634 west Scolt Head. Counts elsewhere: *14th* 38 Welney; *17th* 12 west Burnham Overy and west Stiffkey; *18th* 2 Buckenham Marshes, 4 Happisburgh and Thurne; *19th* 8 Buckenham Marshes, 16 Holme, 42 (17 on ground 25 north) Welney, 4 Pentney GP and 7 Titchwell; *21st* 20 north Welney; *22nd* 5 Buckenham Marshes, 12 Holme, Hunstanton, 10 Welney, 22 Holkham GM and west Ringstead Courtyard Farm; *23rd* 3 Beachamwell, 5 Sidestrand, Swaffham, Fowlmere and 5 north Winterton; *24th* 9 Buckenham Marshes, 30 Holme GM, 33 south Hunstanton, Methwold, Pentney GP, 12 Welney, 20 West Runton, west Incleborough Hill and 7 west Stiffkey; *25th* 46 Holme GM, 68 south Hunstanton, 2 Northrepps, 40 Blakeney Point, 6 Breydon, 7 Buckenham Marshes, 48 Cley, 20 Holme BO, 15 Sidestrand and Ten Mile Bank; *26th* 3 Blakeney GM, 14 Welney, 11 west Kelling WM and 2 Southrepps; *27th* 50 Holkham GM, 21 Blakeney GM, 2 Holme, 30 Holme BO and Morston; *28th* North Pickenham, 25 Holkham GM, east Sheringham and 35 Snettisham; *29th* c12 Cley, 19 Burnham Overy GM and 10 west Kelling WM; *30th* 22 Blakeney GM, Fishley Carrs and Earsham GP. Southerly movements Hunstanton 215 April 17th-May 1st.

Counts in May: *1st* 12 Holme, 10 Welney, 16 Blakeney Point, Brancaster Thompson Farms, 19 west Scolt Head, 5 west Stiffkey and 6 west Sheringham; *2nd* 3 Hunstanton GC and 3 Thurne; *3rd* Brancaster; *4th* Blakeney GM; *5th* Feltwell, 2 Hockwold-cum-Wilton, 15 Blakeney Point and 43 west Scolt Head; *6th* Beachamwell and 31 Welney; *7th* 3 Guist Common and 5 Methwold; *9th* Foulsham; *10th* Gorleston and 2 Burnham Deepdale; *11th* 3 Titchwell; *12th* 2 Burnham Deepdale and Pentney GP; *13th* Snettisham; *14th* 2 Barton Turf Fen, Beachamwell, Bintree, 3 Happisburgh, 11 west Scolt Head

and 10 west Weybourne; *16th* 4 west Kelling WM; *17th* Snettisham, 2 Breydon and 2 Aylmerton; *18th* 2 Burnham Deepdale; *21st* 3 Winterton; *23rd* 4 west Cley and west Scolt Head; *24th* 2 Holme, 3 North Wootton and Titchwell; *26th* 3 Methwold; *29th* 4 Winterton; *30th* Welney and 2 North Wootton.

Breeding confirmed at 15 localities, an increase of 5 over 2009: Feltwell, Hockwold-cum-Wilton, Beachamwell, 24 Welney, 2 Breydon, Methwold, 37 Berney, Catfield, Ludham, 2 Martham, Potter Heigham, 3 Repps-with-Bastwick, Rollesby, 2 West Walton and 2 Wissington BF.

No double-figure counts in July. In Aug 108 Burgh Castle reedbed roost 12th, 10 Holme 24th, 37 27th, 19 30th, 20 31st and 21 Wissington BF 26th. In Sept 15 Repps-with-Bastwick 5th, 16 Holme 8th and 16 12th, 110 Burnham Deepdale and 39 Saham Toney 9th, 32 Burgh Castle reedbed roost 11th and 108 12th, 30 south Welney 11th, 50 12th, 67 18th and 21 Cantley BF reedbed roost 16th. The Cantley BF reedbed roost occupied Aug/Sept but largely uncounted.

Another very light Sept passage with no coastal double-figure counts. In Oct Holme 1st and 3rd, 2 south Hunstanton 1st, Kelling WM 3rd, west Cley 5th, Winterton 8th and latest Cley 17th.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) flava*

One Hunstanton April 7th was followed by a further 18 birds at 12 localities 24th-30th and May 7th-23rd. Singles at 8 localities with 2 Holme April 23rd/24th and 27th, 4 Cley 25th-30th, 2 May 23rd and 2 Holkham GM April 28th.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) thunbergi*

Just 2 spring records: singles west Kelling WM May 17th and Scolt Head 22nd. The worst year since 2003.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola citreola*

Very rare vagrant.

First-winter Northrepps Sept 26th (AB).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Amber List.

Mainly singles recorded at 28 localities Jan/Feb with 2 at 2 localities North Walsham STW Jan 6th and a pair, the male singing, Hindolveston Feb 24th.

With the exception of that early pair, birds on territory from mid-March at Horstead Mill, Bayfield Hall, Norwich (3), Bintree Mill, Honingham, Costessey, Ebridge Mill, Keswick Mill, Lynford Arboretum, Lyng, Marlingford Mill, Newton Flotman, Oxnead, Wissington BF and Wymondham. Possible breeding at 4 other suitable localities.

Following one west over Cley East Bank Aug 11th, post-breeding dispersal mainly from second week in Sept with steady light passage throughout the rest of the month at mainly coastal localities, mainly singles singles but 2 Holme 9th and 29th, 3 12th and 28th, 2 Beeston Priory 19th and 4 south Hunstanton 29th. Elsewhere, other than singles, in Sept: 2 Dereham 15th and 3 17th. Light passage continued throughout Oct, still mainly singles but 2 Dereham Rush Meadows STW 1st and 4 24th, 2 west Kelling WM 4th, 2 Downham Market 5th, 3 Holme 9th, 2 12th and 15th, 2 Trimingham 9th, 2 New Costessey 10th, 3 15th, 2 17th and 3 18th, 3 Welney 11th, 3 west Stiffkey and 2 Lenwade 17th and 4 south Hunstanton 18th. At Hunstanton 17 south 3 north Sept 21st-Oct 31st. At River Tud Valley, New Costessey 37 moving largely west Sept 26th-Nov 28th.

In second winter period mainly singles recorded at 30 localities but 2 New Costessey Nov 2nd and 6th, 3 Dereham 14th and 2 Oxnead and Brampton Dec 27th.

PIED WAGTAIL (White Wagtail) *Motacilla alba*

British form *yarrellii* (Pied Wagtail) a very common resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Nominate continental form (White Wagtail) a passage migrant, scarce in spring, very scarce in autumn. Amber List (*yarrellii*) and Green List (nominate).

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla* (*alba*) *yarrellii*

At beginning of year large uncounted roost Norfolk and Norwich Hospital with 40 from that roost on UEA playing field 1st. Norwich Rampant Horse St. roost occupied Jan 15th-March 18th with 17 Jan 15th the peak count. Elsewhere: 25 Cley reedbed roost Jan 31st, with pre-roost gatherings 80 Guist Common Feb 7th, 70 14th, 96 21st, 140 April 12th, 70 17th, 55 19th and 11 May 18th, 300 Bintree Mill and Guist Bridge Feb 24th and 290 March 13th. Counts elsewhere, some of which may relate to roosts: 94 Wymondham SWT Jan 3rd, 61 Croxton 15th, 30 Bintree Mill 26th, 40 Ingoldsthorpe Feb 21st, 97 perched on wires and marsh Salthouse March 1st and 137 Threxton 16th.

No noticeable spring passage until one west Beeston Bump March 15th followed by a light passage with double-figure counts 96 south Hunstanton 18th, 50 south 22nd, 25 south April 2nd and 23 south 3rd, 31 Stiffkey Fen 3rd, 10 west Scolt Head 9th and 28 East Wretham Heath 12th.

Confirmed breeding pairs: Blakeney Point, Burston, Cley, 2 Hoveton, 3 Ringstead, Welney and 2 Weybourne. Obviously under-recorded as a breeding species. Recorded in 26 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Notable summer/autumn counts: 20 Blakeney Point July 7th, 23 Kelling WM 29th and 15 Sept 8th, 30 Weybourne Aug 1st, 28 22nd and 24 24th, 30 Thurne Sept 1st, 41 Cley 15th, 42 Brancaster 18th, 30 27th and 50 28th. The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital had what was described as a 'substantial roost' with the only recorded count 40 Aug 17th. Autumn pre-roost gatherings: 15 Guist Common Aug 5th and for most of the month there, 52 Cromer 24th, 37 Sept 9th and 150 Wymondham Oct 30th. A roost at Norwich Surrey St. was occupied Sept 9th-Oct 18th with peak of 291 Oct 3rd.

Only autumn movements noted were a total of 77 south 8 north Hunstanton Sept 21st-Oct 31st, 4 west 3 east Kelling WM Oct 31st and 2 east Nov 5th. The Norwich Rampant Horse St. roost was unoccupied to Dec 29th when 3 birds present. A winter reedbed roost at Burgh Castle remains uncounted. Other gatherings in second winter period: 100 to roost Guist Common Nov 14th and 16th, 24 Cley and 17 Welney 17th. Each autumn there is a large pre-roost gathering all along the mid-Yare but roost site(s) not known or unrecorded.

White Wagtail *Motacilla* (*alba*) *alba*

First of year 3 Breydon March 6th with 4 8th followed by a good spring passage March 18th-May 14th of up to 253 birds. Mainly 1-4 but 5 Paston March 20th and 17 22nd, 15 Titchwell April 9th, 5 18th, 15 19th and 5 24th, 10 Scolt Head April 9th, 7 23rd, 9 24th and 5 28th, 5 Waxham April 21st and 28th. Late birds Blakeney Point May 24th and June 22nd.

In autumn an exceptional series of records: Weybourne Aug 28th, 15 Burnham Deepdale , 2 Cley, 2 Waxham and 3 Hopton Sept 2nd, 4 Trimingham 26th, North Wootton Marsh Oct 3rd and 5 Holkham Bay 5th.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in autumn, very scarce in spring and winter.

Only spring record Sidestrand April 27th.

Numbers again poor in autumn with just 16 birds Sept-Nov, mainly singles. First south Hunstanton Sept 23rd, thereafter Paston 29th, Sheringham 30th, 2 Oct 2nd and one 7th, Salthouse Oct 1st, west Titchwell 7th, Blakeney Point 8th, west Holme 9th and west 17th, Stiffkey 10th, Cley, Salthouse and Happisburgh 18th, Gorleston 19th, Sidestrand Nov 2nd and Snettisham 6th.

***CORRECTION*:** The bird noted at Stiffkey Jan 10th and 24th 2009 was of course remaining from 2008, not as stated.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*
Very rare vagrant.
Waxham April 28th (CM *et al.*).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*
Very rare vagrant.
Stiffkey saltmarsh Oct 9th/10th (AMcE *et al.*).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis trivialis*
Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant. Red List.
First of spring south Hunstanton April 2nd and 6th, Lynford Arboretum 5th, Dersingham Bog and Weeting 6th, Incleborough Hill, west Muckleburgh Hill, west Paston and Yarmouth 7th. A steady light coastal and inland passage continued until mid-May, mainly 1-2 birds but 3 Weeting April 22nd, 4 Dersingham Bog and 4 south Hunstanton 23rd, 11 south 24th and 8 south 25th, 4 Lynford and 7 Holme 25th and 3 west Scolt Head 28th. At Hunstanton total of 36 south April 2nd-30th.

Singing males/territories during the breeding season: Roydon Common (2), Salthouse Heath (2), Weeting (2), Winterton, Lynford, Brettenham Heath (1-2), Hockwold-cum-Wilton and Santon Warren (2).

No noticeable passage in Aug. Main light autumn passage Sept 5th to Oct 2nd with a max of 27 birds at 16 coastal localities. Mainly 1-2 but 4 Scolt Head Sept 7th, 3 8th and 3 Holme Oct 2nd.

Latest Wells Oct 9th, Stiffkey 10th and Bacton 22nd.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*
Nominate form a common resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Birds showing characters of the questionably valid Irish and western Scottish form *whistleri* (Hebridean Meadow Pipit) noted occasionally in early spring. Amber List (both forms).
Largest flocks in first winter period: 129 Burnham Norton, 50 Burnham Deepdale, 45 Welney, 32 Wymondham and 21 Cley.

First migrants 2 west Beeston Bump Feb 26th. More obvious passage recorded from third week in March with 279 south Hunstanton and 15 west Sheringham 18th followed by further coastal counts of 22 Cley 19th, 20 Blakeney GM 19th, 30 Cromer GC and 243 south Hunstanton 20th, 40 Burnham Overy Dunes and 280 Holme 21st, 30 Brancaster and 120 Burnham Norton 23rd, 95 south Hunstanton, 50 Ouse Washes (Norfolk) and 75 Snettisham CP 24th, 210 west Holme and 30 Weybourne 25th, 45 west Beeston Bump and 30 Horsey 26th, 180 west Holme, 10 Hopton, 1974 south Hunstanton and 45 Kelling WM 27th, 914 south Hunstanton 28th and 55 west Titchwell 30th.

In April westerly movements at Scolt Head: 169 2nd, 157 3rd, 245 5th, 232 6th, 732 7th, 130 9th, 132 21st, 399 25th, 234 26th and 134 28th. Equivalent southerly movement at Hunstanton: 774 2nd and 128 24th. Elsewhere in April: 45 Guestwick 1st, 40 Heacham 7th and 111 west Weybourne 7th, 79 Burnham Norton 19th, 48 Ringstead Courtyard Farm 22nd and 27th, 40 Sea Palling 26th, 30 Methwold Fens 30th. At Hunstanton 5605 south and 44 north March 18th-May 1st.

One showing characters associated with the form *whistleri* photographed Blakeney Point March 18th.

Singing males/territories during the breeding season: 111 Blakeney Point, 11 Mid-Yare RSPB, at least 40 Stanford TA, 40 Welney, 10 Weybourne, 99 Scolt Head, 30 Breydon area and 5 Wacton. Breeding occurred at Cley but numbers unknown. This species is obviously under-recorded breeding in the county. Recorded in 5 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Just one large post-breeding flock in July: 100 Scolt Head 31st. In Aug up to 250 Scolt Head, 30 Holme and 25 Cley.

The only autumn westerly movement recorded 1955 Holme Sept 16th, otherwise best counts there 150 Sept 3rd, 200 5th, 450 16th, 300 30th and 577 Oct 2nd. At Scolt Head 300 Sept 12th and 155 Oct 10th. At Hunstanton 1195 south Sept 21st-Nov 24th with peak of 237 Sept 22nd. Best counts

elsewhere: 200 Blakeney Point Sept 27th and 225 Oct 11th, 400 Holkham Bay Oct 5th, 200 Beeston Bump, 120 Trimingham and 120 Winterton 9th.

Largest flocks Nov/Dec: 137 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 80 Happisburgh, 65 Burnham Norton, 55 Titchwell, 50 King's Lynn, 30 Breydon, 23 Kelling WM and 21 Holme.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

Very rare vagrant.

Three Oct records: Bacton 1st (MDF), Sheringham 8th (AJB) and Warham Greens 14th (GE).

ROCK PIPIT (Eurasian Rock Pipit) *Anthus petrosus*

Scandinavian form *littoralis* (Scandinavian Rock Pipit) a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Nominate British and Irish form may be a very scarce winter visitor. Green List (*littoralis*) and Amber List (nominate).

Highest counts during first winter period: *Jan* 12 Holkham Bay 2nd, 20 Scolt Head 3rd, 10 Holme 17th and 14 Thornham Hbr 30th; *Feb* 13 Blakeney Point 3rd, 30 Holkham Bay 17th, 40 Holkham Gap 18th with 15 18th and 13 Burnham Overy 26th; *March* 14 Blakeney Point 2nd, 25 Holkham Bay 5th and 5 North Wootton 7th with no more than 2 at any other site. Latest 2 Breydon April 1st and 2 Blakeney GM 4th.

First returning migrant Blakeney Point Sept 13th followed by singles west Holme 14th and 18th, 2 west and one present Sheringham 19th and 2 Overstrand 23rd. Regular thereafter with highest count 12 Holme 29th. Late autumn passage counts: 82 south 5 north Hunstanton Sept 29th-Nov 18th with peaks of just 11 Oct 5th, 12 30th and 9 31st, none from any other locality. Best counts elsewhere: 22 Blakeney Point Oct 10th, 85 Scolt Head 10th, 26 Holme 15th, 20 Burnham Overy Staithe and 10 Morston 19th, 10 Ongar Hill 21st, 15 Holkham Bay 25th and 17 Warham Greens 28th.

Counts on coastal saltmarsh in second winter period: 15 Holkham Bay, 11 Holme, 10 Scolt Head and 23 Warham Nov 7th, 16 Holme and 10 Ongar Hill 14th, 10 Holme Dec 4th and 23 Blakeney Point 9th.

Inland, Buckenham Marshes March 20th.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta spinoletta*

Scarce winter visitor. Amber List.

In first winter period at least 53 at 21 localities including monthly peak counts: *Jan* 4 Titchwell, 4 Warham, 3 Cley, 2 Wissington BF and singles Hickling Broad, Cantley Marshes, Stiffkey, Holkham GM, Morston, Chedgrave Marshes and Ringland; *Feb* 5 Burnham Norton, 3 Blakeney GM, 3 Cley, 2 Titchwell and singles Chedgrave Marshes and Wissington BF; *March* 12 Ouse Washes (Norfolk), 3 Cley, 3 Titchwell, 3 Buckenham Marshes, 2 Wissington BF, 2 Holkham, 2 Thorpe St. Andrew, 2 Strumpshaw Fen and singles Hoveton and Welney. Roost of 10 Jan and 13 March at Wheatfen probably attracted some birds unrecorded elsewhere. In April recorded at 7 localities: 2 Titchwell 1st-8th with one 9th, Hockwold Washes 4th, 10 Buckenham Marshes 5th, with 3 7th and one 9th, 2 Welney 5th, Cley 10th, Strumpshaw Fen 11th and Thorpe St. Andrew 16th.

In autumn first Oct 7th Buckenham Marshes then 1-2 at 8 localities but 5 Breydon Water 10th and 7 Titchwell 21st.

In Nov/Dec at least 44 at 7 localities including monthly peaks: *Nov* 8 Buckenham Marshes, 4 Strumpshaw Fen, 3 Cley, 3 during month Wissington BF and singles Titchwell and Burnham Deepdale; *Dec* 12 Strumpshaw Fen, 10 Titchwell, 5 Cantley Marshes, 4 Buckenham Marshes, 2 Wissington BF and singles Burnham Deepdale and Cley.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

British form *gengleri* (British Chaffinch) an abundant resident. Nominate continental form (Continental Chaffinch) an abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List (*gengleri*) and Green List (nominate).

Highest counts in first winter period: *Jan* 300 Choseley, 200 Nar Valley Fisheries, 163 Croxton, 150 Ludham; *Feb* 300 Langford, 250 Winterton, 125 Weeting; *March* 300 Little Cressingham, 125 Weeting, 120 Ongar Hill.

Spring passage rather light this year with a total of 221 south Hunstanton March 18th-April 24th. The only other counts of migrants received were from Paston where 146 east March 22nd and 220 east April 6th.

Breeding data: 78 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 26 pairs Hoveton Park, 15 pairs Tyrrel's Wood, Long Stratton, 13 pairs Welney and 9 pairs Weybourne. Recorded in 69 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn movement underway late Sept with main counts from Hunstanton Cliffs where 26021 (all south) Sept 21st-Nov 18th with peaks of 1757 Oct 1st, 15132 2nd, 2914 18th, 1086 22nd, 1227 26th, 1048 30th. Elsewhere 50 west Burnham Deepdale Sept 30th, 140 west Holme Oct 2nd, 105 east Paston 7th with 100 east there 11th, 600 Holme 11th with 1025 18th and 144 west Warham Greens 28th. Inland movement noted from New Costessey where 2230 moved largely west along the River Tud Valley Sept 24th-Nov 29th with peaks of 155 Oct 7th and 101 10th.

Highest counts in second winter period: *Oct* 250 Winterton, 170 Snettisham CP; *Nov* 85 Holme, 88 Kelling WM; *Dec* 220 Syderstone, 110 Ringstead, 80 Methwold Fen.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Green List.

Highest counts in first winter period: *Jan* 200 Santon Downham; *Feb* 200 Santon Downham, 100 Thetford, 45 Kenninghall; *March* 60 Little Cressingham, 40 Santon Downham. Numbers then fell rapidly leaving only 1-2 at a few sites until last of the spring 1 south Hunstanton and 2 Santon Downham April 18th.

First of autumn Southrepps on the rather early date of Sept 6th but first widespread arrival not noted until Sept 27th/28th. On 27th highest counts were 85 Blakeney Point, 40 Holme, 30 Thornham, 30 Titchwell, 20 Wells Woods followed next day by 270 Holme, 160 Cley/Salthouse area and 50 Warham Greens.

Birds continued to arrive in Oct with highest counts 425 Holme, 64 Blakeney Point, 47 Holkham and 20 Stiffkey, all Oct 8th, 300 Holme 9th, 40 Holme, 40 West Runton 10th, 120 High Kelling, 60 Paston 11th, 450 Holme, 200 Thornham, 100 Stiffkey 12th, 80 Cley, 200 Repps-with-Bastwick, 150 Stiffkey 14th, 170 Holme 16th, 100 Nar Valley Fisheries 24th, 50 Sparham 30th, 150 Stanford TA area 31st. During this period totals south Hunstanton of 26 17th, 43 18th and 18 30th.

Numbers dwindled somewhat in last 2 months of year with highest counts: *Nov* 80 South Pickenham, 50 Nar Valley Fisheries, 50 Beeston; *Dec* 100 Swaffham, 40 Bradfield, 25 Strumpshaw.

GREENFINCH (European Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris*

British form *harrisoni* a common resident and passage migrant. Nominate continental form a winter visitor in unknown numbers. Amber List (*harrisoni*) and Green List (nominate).

Recorded in rather low numbers during first winter period with highest counts: *Jan* 250 Hoveton Park (roost count), 78 Hingham, 40 Choseley and 40 Whitlington; *Feb* 108 Earlham Cemetery, Norwich, 36 Kelling WM; *March* 26 Kelling WM.

Spring passage noted only from Hunstanton where 365 south March 18th-April 24th with peaks 60 March 18th, 88 22nd and 77 27th.

Breeding data: 18 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 4 pairs Hoveton Park, 2 pairs Wighton, 1 pair Welney. Recorded in 52 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Autumn coastal movement peaked in Oct with highest counts from Hunstanton where 461 south

18th, 289 21st, 306 22nd, 163 27th, 157 30th. Elsewhere 430 Holme Oct 18th, 100 west Beeston Bump 22nd, 76 west Warham Greens 28th, 280 Holme 31st. Inland movement noted New Costessey where total of 343 through River Tud Valley Sept 29th-Nov 28th.

Highest counts in second winter period: *Nov* 160 Holme, 50 Sparham, 50 Great Walsingham; *Dec* 250 Hoveton Park (roost count), 100 UEA, Norwich, 57 Ringstead Courtyard Farms.

GOLDFINCH (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

British form *britannica* a common resident, passage migrant and summer visitor. Nominate continental form may also occur. Amber List (*britannica*).

Highest counts in first winter period: *Jan* 250 Castle Acre, 150 Sculthorpe Moor, 120 Lenwade; *Feb* 160 New Costessey, 122 Ructon Heath, 100 Berney; *March* 100 Feltwell Anchor, 48 Weeting.

Spring passage commenced March 18th with 46 south Hunstanton Cliffs and between this date and May 1st a total of 1637 south 11 north recorded there with peaks of 140 March 22nd, 186 28th, 158 April 6th, 70 25th, 156 26th and 208 28th. Movement also recorded Scolt Head where (all west) 35 April 17th, 119 26th, 90 28th, 110 29th and 9 May 1st. Elsewhere 25 west Holme April 17th, 24 west Kelling WM 30th and 15 west Sheringham May 1st.

Breeding data: 17 territories Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 3 pairs Weybourne, 2 pairs Welney, 1+ pair Cley, 1 pair Elsing. Recorded in 56 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Post-breeding concentrations: *Aug* 100 Berney, 50 Beeston Regis, 50 Nar Valley Fisheries, 40 Brancaster; *Sept* 100 Kelling WM, 75 Hempnall.

As usual only small-scale autumn passage noted from 2 sites. At Hunstanton 203 south 3 north Sept 9th-Nov 18th and inland along the River Tud valley at New Costessey where 225 Oct 1st-Nov 27th.

Highest counts in second winter period: *Oct* 325 Holme, 165 New Costessey, 50 Weybourne; *Nov 75* Holme, 40 Cley, 40 West Walton; *Dec* 100 Hempnall, 50 Aylmerton, 40 Hindolveston.

SISKIN (Eurasian Siskin) *Carduelis spinus*

Common or fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor and very scarce breeder. Green List.

Flocks widespread in the first winter period, though numbers relatively low with just 4 sites holding three-figure flocks, with 210 Lynford Arboretum and 100 Buxton Heath, North Elmham and Roydon Common. Highest counts elsewhere 80 Scoulton, 70 Strumpshaw and Thetford Nunnery, 60 Lyng, 50 Buckenham Tofts and 45 Haveringland.

Spring overhead passage March 15th-June 1st, best recorded site Hunstanton where 499 south 2 north March 18th-April 28th, including 239 March 18th, 118 19th and 124 20th, with much smaller numbers mostly west at 7 additional sites.

During the breeding season reports from 14 sites with 2 singing males Santon Downham and one Lynford, with family parties/juvs at Aylmerton, Beeston Regis, Colkirk, Dersingham, Wells Woods and Weybourne, and occasional birds at 6 further localities.

Autumn immigration from late Sept when first 5 west Scolt Head 26th, followed by much larger numbers over the next few days when 327 west Paston, 140 Holme, 130 Blakeney Point, 100 Stiffkey/ Warham Greens, 65 Wells East Hills, 50 Titchwell, 50 Burnham Overy Dunes, 45 Salthouse Heath and 30 Winterton 27th, 150 Wells, 135 Holme, 120 west Paston, 70 Blakeney Point and 65 Yarmouth 28th, 90 Yarmouth 29th and 75 Holme 30th. Passage continued throughout Oct but in much reduced numbers with best counts 70 east Holme and 60 Wells 4th, 47 Blakeney Point 11th, 120 Holme 12th, 40 Sparham 15th, 80 Kelling Heath 17th and 80 west Kelling 18th. Also 426 south Hunstanton Sept 29th-Nov 8th including 136 Oct 22nd and 127 mostly west River Tud Valley New Costessey Sept 28th-Nov 27th.

Not surprisingly following a reasonable autumn, good numbers during the final 2 months of year, when 240 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 150 Roydon Common, 150 Pentney, 100 Lynford Arboretum, 94 Titchwell, 70 Holt, 65 Hindolveston, 60 Lenwade, 50 Filby Broad, Hickling, Ranworth Broad and Sparham Pools and 40 Glandford and Holt Lowes.

LINNET (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina cannabina*
Common resident and passage migrant. Red List.
Impressive numbers Jan-March, when highest counts 1200 Choseley, 300 Thornham Farms, 250 Kelling WM, 200 Snettisham, 170 Burnham Norton, 150 Caistor St. Edmund, 120 Castle Acre, Little Snoring, Sheringham BO and Welney, 100 Langford, Roydon Common, Scarning and Weybourne, with flocks of 50-100 at 15 further sites.

Overhead spring passage mid-March to mid-May, best recorded sites Hunstanton where 1841 south 77 north March 18th-May 1st including 131 March 26th, 141 28th, 142 April 6th, 156 April 24th, 199 28th and Scolt Head where 175 7th, 191 17th,153 26th, 177 29th, 49 May 1st and smaller numbers west till May 16th. Elsewhere 50 west Holme April 10th, 111 west Weybourne 25th, 42 west Kelling WM 30th and 30 west 2 east May 1st. Best feeding flocks in spring 170 Burnham Norton and 120 Welney April and 80 Kelling WM June.

Breeding pairs/singing males: 41 Scolt Head, 30 Blakeney Point (many young seen), 8 Weybourne, 7 Welney, 3 Guestwick, 3 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 2 North Creake, a pair for first time in walled garden Hoveton Park and probably bred Cley. Recorded in 31 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Peak counts late summer/autumn: *July* 226 Holkham Quarles Farm; *Aug* 180 Scolt Head, 100 Kelling WM; *Sept* 200 Sheringham BO, 80 Aylmerton; *Oct* 400 Sheringham, 300 Shotesham, 150 Salthouse, 145 Scolt Head, 110 Flitcham and 80 Holme.

Autumn movements typically light, best counts 101 south Hunstanton Sept 21st, 121 south Oct 2nd and 127 east Paston 7th.

As at the beginning of the year, impressive flocks in second winter period, including 1017 Caistor St. Edmund, 370 Sparham, 100 Scolt Head and Worthing, 90 Snettisham, 80 Burnham Overy Hbr and 70 Blakeney Point.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris pipilans* **('British Twite')**
Scarce and declining winter visitor. Red List.
The first winter period saw the flock (or flocks) present in late 2009 in the northwest of the county still in residence. In the Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr area there were up to 40 in Jan, up to 45 in Feb and 40 until March 14th. The last birds reported here were 10 March 20th. At Titchwell, there were up to 41 in Jan and up to 59 in Feb. Flock size peaked at 67 March 4th but 30 were still present 22nd. Numbers then fell rapidly, with the highest subsequent count of just 10 April 5th. Three Titchwell April 9th were the last of the spring.

Nearby, reports of 55 Holme/Thornham Jan 12th, 7 Jan 15th, 20 Jan 26th, 12 Jan 28th, 9 Feb 2nd, 5 Feb 16th, 30 Feb 27th, 20 March 23rd/24th, 13 March 25th and 30 Burnham Deepdale Jan 30th doubtless refer to these same birds but it is uncertain whether the birds regularly observed at Scolt Head/ Brancaster Hbr were the same as those regularly at Titchwell/Thornham.

Further east, a small flock which frequented the Cley area (2 Jan 12th, 40 Jan 15th, 'a smaller number' on 8 other dates in Jan including 30 23rd, 4 Feb 14th and 20 Feb 15th re-located a short distance, with 30 Blakeney Point Feb 20th, 26 Feb 24th, 30 March 1st and 27 Blakeney GM 25th and 17 March 16th/17th. These birds also no doubt accounted for 7 Morston March 1st and 1 west Stiffkey April 8th.

Twite were only exceptionally recorded elsewhere in the first winter period. In the Wash the few reports were 29 Admiralty Point Jan 3rd, 2 there March 7th, 5 Snettisham Jan 9th and 20 there Jan 13th. Elsewhere there were 5 Holkham Bay Feb 15th and, remarkably, 25 Breydon Jan 9th.

In autumn singles Sheringham Oct 8th, Burnham Overy 13th, 3 Yarmouth North Denes 13th, 4 Happisburgh 15th, 6 Holkham Bay 20th with 1 there 30th, a single Blakeney Hbr 22nd with 25 there 28th. From 5-21 birds remained at Sidestrand Oct 30th-Nov 5th.

The first (15 birds) appeared at Titchwell Oct 23rd, with birds reported from here regularly until the year end, with up to 20 during Oct, 53 in Nov (peak on 5th) and 30 during Dec. 13 Brancaster Hbr Nov 17th and 17 Burnham Deepdale Dec 10th may well have been additional birds as 70 reported

Scolt Head (on the island itself) Dec 19th. Subsequent reports from the Scolt Head/Brancaster Hbr area were of 40 Dec 21st, 50 Dec 23rd and 12 Dec 27th whilst nearby 3 were at Thornham Dec 20th.

Records from the Wash were of 2 Snettisham Nov 7th, 16 Admiralty Point Nov 14th and 14 Ongar Hill Dec 11th. There were just 2 records elsewhere in the second winter period: 30 Holkham Bay Nov 24th and 15 Blakeney GM Dec 7th.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor and very scarce breeder. Red List.

Numbers in first winter period typical by recent standards, highest counts 80 Barton Broad, 50 Strumpshaw Fen, 30 Bacton, 28 Methwold, 22 Santon Downham, 20 High Kelling, Norwich and Whitlingham CP, 18 Kelling WM, 15 Roydon Common and Thetford Nunnery Lakes and smaller numbers at around 50 additional sites.

Spring passage mostly light, at Hunstanton 68 south March 18th-April 30th including 21 April 6th and 19 25th. Also 6 west Titchwell and 8 west Scolt Head April 7th, 19 west Scolt Head 25th, 3 west Scolt Head May 5th and 2 west Burnham Overy Dunes June 1st. Also in April several large flocks including 75 Santon Downham, 44 Kelling Heath and 21 Hoveton Park.

No breeding data received but singing male High Kelling April and June/July records Holkham Meals and Santon Downham.

Light autumn passage from Sept 23rd until late Nov, at Hunstanton 66 south Sept 23rd-Nov 23rd and 43 mostly west River Tud Valley New Costessey Oct 16th-Nov 24th. Few elsewhere just 10 west Kelling WM Sept 28th, 7 West Holme Oct 17th and 4 west Wells 25th. Also during Oct 80 Dersingham Bog 29th, 30 Thetford Nunnery Lakes 14th, 20 Sparham Pools 23rd, 11 Pensthorpe 31st, 10 Wells 11th and 10 Kelling Heath 22nd.

Numbers in closing 2 months of the year at similar levels to those at the beginning with 100 Brettenham Heath, 40 Roydon Common, 35 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 30 Ranworth Broad, 29 East Wretham Heath, 18 High Kelling, 16 Dersingham Bog, 15 Roydon Common and smaller numbers at just 14 other sites.

Once again during the year a high number of records received as 'Redpoll sp. either Lesser or Common'. Most in first half of year probably referred to Lesser, peak counts 10 Kettlestone Jan 24th and West Newton April 1st, 10 Wolferton April 10th, 7 Strumpshaw Fen Jan 28th, 6 Croxton Jan 15th and 1-3 at 16 other sites.

Many more such records from autumn till end of year when more may have referred to Common Redpoll as there was an influx of this species into the county in late autumn/early winter. Highest counts: 50 Blakeney Point Sept 27th, 10 Holme 30th and in Oct 19 Holme 4th and 37 16th, 21 Blakeney Point 10th, 21 west Beeston Regis 11th, 125 through Beeston Common 14th and 65 there 16th (which included some definite Common Redpolls), 10 River Tud Valley New Costessey 16th and 8 west Stiffkey 17th. Highest counts Nov and Dec: 35 Holme Nov 10th, 10 Sprowston 11th, 10 Welney 15th and in Dec 10 Sprowston 11th and 130 Catfield 28th.

MEALY REDPOLL (Common Redpoll) *Carduelis flammea*

Nominate Scandinavian and Russian form a scarce or very scarce, occasionally fairly common, irruptive visitor in winter. Greenland form *rostrata* (Greenland Redpoll) and Iceland form *islandica* (Iceland Redpoll) very rare vagrants. Green List (nominate).

Numbers in first winter period low apart from 30 Beeston Regis Jan 22nd, 6 Cringelford March 19th and 5 27th, 6 Holkham March 24th, 5 Old Catton Feb 22nd, 4 Strumpshaw Fen Feb 22nd and 3 March 13th, 4 Weeting Feb 15th, 3 Santon Downham March 25th and 1-2 Felbrigg, Happisburgh, Hickling, Kelling Heath, Lynford Arboretum, Nar Valley Fisheries, Potter Heigham, Ranworth Broad, Sheringham BO, Sheringham Park, Titchwell, UEA Broad and Whitlingham CP. Last of spring 2 Kelling Heath April 7th and 12 Santon Downham 12th.

First in autumn Blakeney Point Sept 26th and 2 27th, 2 Overstrand Oct 2nd, 1 Blakeney Point 8th and Winterton 9th. Small influx Oct 10th-13th when 1-3 Blakeney Point, Burnham Overy Dunes,

Cley, Holme, Kelling WM, Paston, Sheringham BO, Wells Woods and Weybourne. Further new arrivals continued to appear during the rest of Oct when 6 Blakeney Point 16th, 5 Kelling Heath 17th, 7 Wells 18th and 1-3 at 4 other sites. Influx continued in Nov and Dec with records from 28 sites, most regular site Wells Woods where up to 20 during Nov and 23 in Dec. Highest counts elsewhere 4 Muckleburgh Hill Nov 14th, 3 Holme and Ranworth Broad 23rd, 8 Titchwell Dec 3rd, up to 5 Weybourne 3rd-31st, 20 Sparham Pools, 8 Dersingham Bog and 7 East Wretham Heath 5th, 5 Ranworth Broad 7th, 14 Stoke Ferry 8th, 14 King's Lynn 18th and 1-3 at all other sites.
***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** A pale Iceland Redpoll Kelling March 24th-27th 2009 was the first for Norfolk (AMS *et al.*). See article for full details.

ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni*

Circumpolar form *exilipes* (Coues's Arctic Redpoll) a rare vagrant, usually associated with influxes of Mealy Redpolls. Nominate Greenland form (Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll) a very rare vagrant.

Three records, all *exilipes*: Adult male Titchwell Nov 23rd (per Recorder), first-winter Wells Dec 1st-4th (JRMcC, AMS *et al.*) and first-winter Weybourne Dec 22nd and intermittently to year end (M&BG).

COMMON CROSSBILL (Red Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra curvirostra*

Scarce, occasionally fairly common, resident and irruptive visitor in summer and autumn. Green List.

Recorded from 75 localities during the first 7 months of the year, the spread of records and peak counts suggesting that there was some passage through the county during March and again in July. Sites and counts of 20 or more: 20 Aylmerton March 3rd, Aylsham, 40 Bacton Wood March 9th-14th, Beeston Regis, Binham, Bintree, 50 west Blakeney July 17th, Brancaster Thompson Farms, Burnham Overy Staithe, 20 Cawston Heath April 3rd, Chedgrave Marshes, Cley, Cockley Cley, Cockthorpe, Croxton Heath, Dersingham Bog, East Walton, 50 Fakenham GC March 19th, 35 Felbrigg Jan 23rd, 50 March 27th, 30 April 5th and 30 May 24th, Felthorpe, Great Hockham, Gressenhall, 26 Grime's Graves March 6th, Haddiscoe, 25 Hevingham April 11th, Hickling, Hindringham, Hockham, 20 Holkham April 10th, 30 May 5th, 25 Holkham Park March 14th, 21 Holme March 8th, 35 Holt CP May 6th, Holt Lowes, Hopton, Horning, Horsford, 22 Houghton Park Jan 31st, 23 April 11th, 20 Hoveton March 27th, 22 July 19th, 23 Hoveton Park April 6th, 22 July 19th, Kelling, 20 Kelling Heath March 28th, 30 May 28th, 60 June 13th, 21 July 5th, Langford, 20 west Langham July 19th, Little Snoring, 35 Lynford Jan 17th, 22 May 22nd, 35 Lynford Arboretum Jan 10th, 37 Feb 13th, 50 April 24th, North Walsham, Northrepps, Norwich, Old Catton, Overstrand, Repps-with-Bastwick, 20 south Roydon Common July 3rd, 27 Sandringham March 3rd, 30 Santon Downham Jan 26th, 22 Feb 4th, 20 March 8th, 100 April 13th, 20 May 16th, 30 Santon Warren March 9th, 40 April 5th, Sheringham BO, 40 Sheringham Park March 6th, Sparham Pools, Stiffkey, Swafield, Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 20 Thetford Olley's Farm Jan 26th, Thetford Two Mile Bottom, 40 Thetford Warren March 10th, Thompson Common, Thorpe St. Andrew, Thurlton Marshes, 25 west Titchwell July 11th, 35 Weeting Jan 24th, 35 Feb 14th, 55 April 6th, West Acre, West Newton, Weybourne, Winfarthing and Wolferton.

Surprisingly, given the numbers present in the county during the first winter period and early spring, very little breeding information received though a family party and 3 recently fledged young Weeting and a singing male Santon Downham late March.

By the end of July, virtually all had left the county with records from just 14 sites on a handful of dates Aug-Dec, including 32 Lynford Lakes Oct 2nd, 12 Lynford Arboretum Nov 26th, 7 south Salthouse Heath Sept 2nd, 6 North Elmham Oct 13th and just 1-4 at all other sites.

TRUMPETER FINCH *Bucanetes githagineus*

Very rare vagrant.

An adult male briefly Blakeney Point May 31st was relocated later the same day at Cley/Salthouse where it frequented the shingle bank north of Arnold's Marsh till June 2nd (JC *et al.*). This is the second county record in three years, both were males and both were found on Blakeney Point on the same date! See article for full details.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus erythrinus*

Very scarce passage migrant.

Female/first-summer male Eccles June 3rd (TA, AJK, PJH), Kelling WM June 9th (MN) and first-winter Warham Greens Sept 26th (AMcE).

BULLFINCH (Eurasian Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

British form *pileata* (British Bullfinch) a fairly common resident. Nominate Scandinavian form (Northern Bullfinch) a very rare irruptive visitor in autumn and winter. Central European form *europoea* may also occur. Amber List (*pileata*).

British Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata*

Records from at least 165 localities, up considerably on the 108 in 2009. Peak counts during year: 17 Sustead, 16 Salthouse Sarbury Hill, 15 Old Buckenham, 14 Bacton, Cockley Cley, and Dereham Rush Meadow STW, 12 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 9 East Rudham, Hoe and Stiffkey, 8 Beeston Common, Great Massingham and Great Moulton.

Breeding data received from 15 sites but probably occurred at or near many of the 165 sites. Breeding pairs/territorial males: 8 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 3 Hoveton Park, Long Stratton and Sculthorpe Moor, 2 Langham and Titchwell, singles Elsing, Great Snoring, Guestwick, Happisburgh, Kelling WM, North Creake, Roydon Common and Sparham Pools. Recorded in 11 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

Northern Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*

The late autumn brought a notable influx: Female Burnham Overy Dunes Oct 11th (MN, NRR *et al.*), male trapped Eccles Oct 17th (NB), male and female Warham Greens Oct 24th (JRMcC *et al.*), adult female trapped Burnham Deepdale Oct 25th (and re-trapped 28th) and adult male and juv female trapped there 28th, all remaining to at least Nov 15th (KH), female Wells Woods Nov 9th (AMS *et al.*), male and 3 females (including bird from 9th) Wells Woods Nov 14th-Dec 4th (JRMcC *et al.*) and 3 Sidestrand Dec 18th/19th (AB). Of these, most were 'normal' callers but at least the bird at Burnham Overy Dunes and the male at Wells Woods were 'trumpeters'.

Northern Bullfinches (*Gary Wright*)

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce resident and passage migrant. Red List.

As usual main site Lynford Arboretum where some excellent counts, monthly max 19 Jan, 24 Feb, 9 March, 4 April, 1 May, 9 Oct, 19 Nov and 5 Dec.

Elsewhere one Diss Jan 13th, 2 Santon Downham Feb 12th and one March 13th, singles Hilborough March 1st, Kettlestone May 2nd/3rd, Langham May 4th, Felbrigg June 15th, Pentney Nov 17th, Wiveton Nov 18th, Felbrigg Dec 13th and Barnham Cross Common and Thetford Nunnery Lakes 14th.

More migrants than usual in the autumn: Wiveton Oct 1st, west River Tud Valley New Costessey 7th, 2 east Holme 8th, singles east Overstrand and Warham Greens 9th, Burgh Castle 10th, Weybourne 14th, east Burnham Overy Staithe and Holkham Meals 16th, west Salthouse 17th, Felbrigg 19th, Eccles Nov 2nd and single flock of 8 east Cley 7th.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Icelandic form *insulae* (Icelandic Snow Bunting) a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Nominate Scandinavian form a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Siberian form *vlasowae* (Siberian Snow Bunting) may also occur. Amber List (both forms).

Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Snettisham/Heacham	115	30	9	-	6	9	18
Hunstanton	60	30	30	-	12	70	-
Holme	120	100	2	12	50	100	60
Titchwell/Brancaster	37	40	3	5	-	30	30
Choseley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scolt Head	120	70	1	1	1	120	90
Holkham Bay/Wells	40	66	25	-	20	70	39
Blakeney Point	140	87	10	1	2	50	42
Cley/Salthouse	135	100	100	4	40	40	95
Sheringham/West Runton	3	2	1	7	-	-	-
Walcott/Paston	17	-	2	-	3	12	12
Happisburgh/Eccles	41	17	40	8	12	35	74
Winterton	-	-	-	1	40	-	-
Caister	65	66	45	-	-	90	64
Breydon/Yarmouth/Gorleston	-	-	-	1	16	17	1

Flocks in first winter period at sites not in the above table: 30 Thornham Point Jan 24th, 60 Kelling WM Jan 24th, 28 Burnham Overy Dunes Feb 14th, 16 Kelling WM/Weybourne Feb 14th, 11 Thornham Point Feb 16th and 16 there March 16th. There were no inland records during the first winter period and again very little evidence of any spring passage. The last bird of spring was recorded at Cley April 22nd.

The return of wintering birds from Sept 13th and 17th with singles Scolt Head and Holme respectively. 1-2 then reported by end Sept at several sites around the coast with larger numbers as follows: 12 Holme 23rd, 5 Titchwell 28th, 5 Waxham 29th and 6 Burnham Overy Dunes 30th. Movement continued in Oct with 6 Waxham 11th, 20 east Burnham Overy Dunes 13th with 5 west there 19th and 7 east Kelling 20th.

Notable flocks in second winter period at sites not in the above table included Burnham Overy Dunes (17), Horsey (25), Thornham (30) and Weybourne (30).

Birds inland at Wood Dalling Oct 8th, west over Thorpe Station Marshes 30th, Martham Broad Nov 5th and 8th, Thorpe Marshes (Haddiscoe) 21st, 2 Stowbridge 27th and 2 Catfield 29th.

LAPLAND BUNTING (Lapland Longspur) *Calcarius lapponicus*

Nominate continental form a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Greenland and Canadian form *subcalcaratus* may also occur. Amber List (both forms).

Monthly max at most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Holme	2	7	-	19	40	5	30
Thornham	1	-	-	6	20	4	2
Titchwell	-	-	-	16	11	5	2
Choseley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scolt Head	-	-	-	15	6	2	2
Burnham Overy	-	-	-	10	10	4	4
Holkham Bay	-	2	-	-	20	3	1
Stiffkey/Warham Greens	1	-	-	3	10	3	2
Blakeney Point	-	-	-	7	11	4	-
Cley/Salthouse	-	-	1	20	10	11	3
Kelling/Weybourne	-	-	-	2	25	7	1
Sheringham	-	-	-	16	15	100	-
West Runton	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mundesley/Paston	-	-	-	4	70	60	-
Happisburgh/Eccles	-	-	-	1	100	80	61
Breydon	1	-	-	1	11	21	47

Elsewhere in first winter period Gorleston Feb 4th, 61 Burnham Deepdale March 18th and 3 Burnham Norton 23rd. A single inland Hardley Flood April 12th. No clear spring passage birds recorded.

Returning birds were early, heralding a bumper year for this species. First of the autumn Blakeney Point Aug 27th, followed by 1-5 birds daily at numerous sites from Holme to Great Yarmouth until Sept 12th when 16 Sheringham, 13 Scolt Head and 7 Blakeney Point. Numbers increased slightly from 12th with further daily single-figure counts of 1-9 until the month end recorded at many north and east coast sites. Notable counts were 20 Cley 13th, 15 Holme 18th, 11 Cley 21st, 10 south Hunstanton 22nd (a total of 103 south recorded here Sept 22nd-Nov 19th), 10 Sheringham 27th, 12 Wells East Hills 27th, 12 Burnham Overy Staithe 27th, 19 Holme 28th, 11 Sheringham 29th, and 11 Horsey 30th. Oct began with 10 south Hunstanton and 23 west Kelling 1st, followed by a large flock of 100+ Happisburgh 2nd, many of which remained for several weeks. Sites recording double-figure flocks or daily counts in Oct were as follows: 28 Holme 4th, 20 Holkham 5th, 26 south Hunstanton 5th, 12 Sheringham BO 5th, 10 Stiffkey 9th, 11 Holme 10th, 23 west Kelling 12th, 11 Breydon Water 13th, 10 Burnham Overy Dunes 13th, 20 Thornham 13th, 10 Wells 14th, 12 Winterton 15th, 25 Holme 16th, 11 Titchwell 16th, 15 Sheringham 17th, 12 Wells 17th, 10 Cley 18th, 40 Holme 18th, 24 south Hunstanton 18th, 20 Paston 20th/21st, 16 Holme 21st, 33 Paston 22nd with a record count of 70 there 24th, 41 Weybourne 26th and 11 Blakeney Point 27th. Nov continued in a similar vein with notable flocks/counts as follows: 60 Paston 2nd, 24 west 4 east Weybourne 5th, 25 Happisburgh 7th with 20 13th, 80 14th 70 18th and 30 28th, 100 Sheringham 14th, 11 southwest Cley 15th, 15 Weybourne 19th, 21 Breydon Water 25th and 10 Sheringham 28th. Single figures again recorded daily at several other coastal sites. Numbers slightly reduced in early Dec with a monthly max of 61 Happisburgh 9th, and other notable counts as follows: 30 Holme 6th, 47 Breydon Water 10th with 12 there 12th-19th, and 5 Ongar Hill 11th. Numbers dwindled further from mid-month with only 1-2 at far fewer sites.

Several inland records: Martham Sept 21st, Shelfanger/Winfarthing Sept 22nd, New Costessey Sept 28th, 3 Repps-with-Bastwick Oct 26th, Buckenham Marshes Oct 10th, 8 Hickling Broad Nov 5th, Buckenham Marshes Nov 13th-Dec 4th, Hoveton Park Nov 16th, Hindolveston Nov 24th, Whitlingham CP Dec 2nd and East Ruston 12th.

Lapland Buntings (*John Geeson*)

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella citrinella*
Common resident. Red List.
Flocks in first winter period: 200 Dereham, 137 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 70 Sheringham BO, 80 West Tofts, 80 Whitington, 60 Castle Acre, 60 Croxton, 50 Bagthorpe, 45 Sparham Pools, 40 Burnham Overy GM, 40 Guist, 36 Hingham, 36 Illington, 35 Choseley, 35 Nar Valley Fisheries, 30 Dereham, 30 Swannington, 30 Weybourne, 26 Stiffkey, 25 Scarning, 20 Kenninghall, 10 Kelling WM and 10 Kettlestone. Single-figure flocks recorded Kelling Heath (7), Blakeney (4), Blakeney GM (2) and Cley (1). None reported from Thornham Farms for the first time in several years.

Spring movements saw single west Beeston Bump March 15th, 10 south Huntanton March 18th-April 25th and west Kelling WM April 9th and 18th.

Breeding territories/pairs included 38 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 13 Roydon Common, 12 Sparham, 5 Gorleston, 5 Guestwick, 5 Spixworth, 3 Kelling Heath, 3 Weeting, 2 Hickling Broad and 2 Holkham NNR. A good breeding season was reported from Stanford TA. Birds reported during the breeding season from Choseley (18), Thursford (12), Great Massingham (8), Hindringham (6), Titchwell (2) and Kelling WM (1). Late summer/early autumn flocks: 5 Titchwell Aug 31st, 10 Mundesley Sept 11th and 14 Thetford Nunnery Lakes Sept 16th. Recorded in 53 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

First autumn passage noted Hunstanton where birds recorded south Sept 22nd-Nov 1st. Other records: south Blakeney Point Oct 9th, 2 Norwich Airport Oct 12th, east Holme Oct 18th, 3 south Hunstanton Oct 26th, west Burnham Overy Dunes Oct 30th, 2 south Hunstanton 30th and Blakeney Point Nov 1st.

Flocks in second winter period: 115 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 110 Sparham, 100 East Rudham, 60 Holme Hale, 60 Sheringham BO, 60 Walcott, 47 Salthouse, 20 Great Massingham, 21 Caistor St. Edmund, 17 Langham, 13 Hoe, 16 Blackborough End Tip, 12 Admiralty Point, 10 Attlebridge, 10 Lyng and 6 Kelling WM. Reports of 1-5 birds from Blakeney GM, Holme and Salthouse.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*
Formerly a very scarce passage migrant, now a rare vagrant.
First-winter Kelling Heath Sept 6th (JW *et al.*).

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*
Very rare vagrant.
First-winter Thornham Point Sept 29th (per Recorder) and Morston Oct 15th (HV).

REED BUNTING (Common Reed Bunting) *Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus*
Common resident and passage migrant. Amber List.
Flocks/counts in first winter period: 86 Blakeney Point, 50 Sheringham BO, 50 Winterton, 47 Burnham Norton, 45 North Wootton Marsh, 40 Burnham Deepdale, 40 Holme BO, 35 Scolt Head/ Brancaster Hbr, 30 Whitington, 26 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 25 Sculthorpe Moor, 20 Blakeney

Harbour, 20 Thetford Nunnery Lakes, 20 Weybourne, 17 Little Melton, 15 Cley, 15 Flitcham, 14 Rockland Broad, 12 Nar Valley Fisheries, 7 Cley, 7 Welney, 6 Costessey, 6 Dereham Rush Meadow STW and 6 Blakeney GM. Smaller counts of 1-5 were reported from Guist Common, Stiffkey Fen and Kelling WM. A cold weather movement noticed at Southrepps where 5 Jan 3rd.

Probable spring passage birds: 2 west Beeston Bump March 15th, 10 south Hunstanton March 19th-April 26th and 3 west Holme March 25th.

Breeding territories/pairs: 72 Scolt Head, 66 Hickling Broad, 66 Mid-Yare RSPB, 61 Holkham NNR, 31 Welney, 21 Blakeney Point, 18 Buckenham Marshes, 15 Lopham Fen, 14 Catfield Fen, 13 Roydon Common, 13 Wickhampton, 9 Swanton Morley GP, 6 Guist Common, 5+ Cley, 5 Langley, 4 Kelling WM, 3 Low Tharston, 3 Sculthorpe Moor, 2-3 King's Lynn old beet factory and 2 Pentney GP. Records during breeding season also from Holme (3) and Salthouse (1). Recorded in 12 out of 88 Breeding Bird Survey squares.

First migrants of autumn 5 Beeston Bump Sept 27th, 3 west 1 east Kelling WM Sept 28th, 2 Southrepps Sept 29th, 53 south 1 north Hunstaton Sept 29th-Oct 31st, 3 east Sidestrand Oct 7th, 6 Beeston Bump Oct 8th, 3 Overstrand Oct 9th and west Cromer GC Oct 30th.

Second winter period flocks: 104 Scolt Head, 100 Irstead, 52 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 50 Upwell, 45 Holme, 43 Blakeney Point, 40 Sparham, 38 Burham Deepdale, 18 Methwold, 18 Sheringham, 15 Winterton, 11 Cley, 10 Happisburgh, 8 Welney, 7 Gorleston, 7 Salthouse, 6 Kelling WM and 4 Blakeney GM.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*

Very rare vagrant.

***ADDITIONAL RECORD*:** First-winter/female Blakeney Point Sept 10th/11th 1989 (DHR, AMS, AV *et al.*), previously noted as Red/Black-headed Bunting but now accepted by BBRC as Black-headed Bunting.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra calandra*

Scarce and declining resident. Red List.

Peak first winter period counts at regular sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*
Welney/Ten Mile Bank	-	8	5	9	9
Choseley	15	40	30	3	4

Other notable flocks in first winter period: 60 Feltwell Anchor, 50 Hilgay, 32 Ringstead Courtyard Farm, 30 Denver Sluice, 14 Thornham Farms, 6 Hockwold Washes and 5 Costessey. Smaller numbers at Martham (4), Castle Acre (3), Titchwell (3), Boughton Fen (2), Cley (2), Whitington (2). Burnham Deepdale (1), Burnham Norton (1), Ouse Washes (1), Snettisham (1) and Waxham (1). Spring movement: west Kelling March 26th, west Weybourne April 9th and south Hunstanton April 17th.

In the breeding season pairs reported Welney (6) and Ringstead Courtyard Farm (5). Singing birds also recorded Methwold (4), Upwell (3), Titchwell (2), Choseley (2), Feltwell (1), Hilgay Fen (1) and Hockwold Fen (1). Other noteworthy records included singles east Stiffkey Fen May 5th and west Scolt Head June 27th, where the first for several years.

Autumn passage saw only a single Salthouse Heath Sept 4th.

Flocks in the second winter period: 187 Ringstead Courtyard Farms, 60 Hilgay, 30 Choseley and 12 Thornham Farms. All other records: 3 North Wootton Marsh Dec 19th, 2 Holme Oct 11th, Holkham Oct 19th and Methwold Dec 14th.

Introductions, Escapes, Ferals, Hybrids and Birds of Unknown Origin

It should be noted that the identification of birds listed in the Appendices has not been assessed by the County Records Committee or by BBRC. Records are therefore published as received. Unfamiliar or 'exotic' species are perhaps more prone to misidentification, and particular care is of course required with escaped falcons, many of which may be unidentifiable hybrids. Indeed establishing the parentage of all hybrids involves a degree of conjecture.

Appendix 1 - Categories A, B and C. Individuals of species on the British List thought to be feral, escaped or deliberately released (either in Norfolk or elsewhere in Britain or Europe) or whose origins are unknown.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*
Earsham Marshes April 4th, Earsham (Otter Trust) 4 March 20th and 26th.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*
Foulden Nov 27th, Wissington Beet Factory Dec 29th.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*
Harleston Marshes Jan 7th, 2 April 24th-26th, May 3rd-8th.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*
Blakeney GM May 9th, Burnham Norton April 24th, Cley May 1st-31st, June 1st-3rd, Titchwell April 7th.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*
Kelling WM 5 Dec 12th.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*
East Carleton Dec 26th.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*
Breydon Water July 28th, Burnham Deepdale Nov 28th, Cley Aug 11th, Sept 1st, 8th and 11th, Oct 8th and 30th, Nov 3rd-6th, Earsham GP 2 Jan 17th, 2 Feb 4th-18th, 2 March 6th, 2 April 10th-24th and 30th, May 1st, 3rd and 5th-23rd, June 11th-30th, July 1st-3rd, 5th, 9th, 16th and 19th, Sept 4th-6th with 2 on 17th, 2 Oct 9th and 30th, Flitcham 2 Aug 31st, Foulsham Airfield 2 Feb 25th and April 5th, Guestwick Oct 12th, Haddiscoe Dec 10th/11th, Hargham March 28th, Hindolveston 2 March 12th/13th, 2 April 10th and 21st, Little Melton April 6th, Melton Park Lake Feb 23rd, Nar Valley Fisheries 2 Nov 28th, Pentney GP 2 Jan 29th, July 25th, 27th and 29th, 2 Aug 1st, 6th, 8th/9th, 11th-17th, 28th and 30th, 2 Sept 12th, 2 Oct 30th and 2 Nov 14th, Snettisham June 30th, Aug 24th, Sept 15th, Dec 17th and 28th, Thurlton Marshes Dec 5th and 13th, Titchwell Jan 27th and 30th.

BAIKAL TEAL *Anas formosa*
Horning Staithe Dec 28th.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*
Cantley BF Aug 24th.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*
Two Sculthorpe Moor all year.

NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Lyng Dec 26th.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*
Great Witchingham March 6th.

Appendix II - Category D. Individuals of species which would otherwise appear on the British List except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state

ROSS'S GOOSE *Chen rossii*
Blakeney GM Dec 22nd, Burnham Overy Nov 26th-Dec 31st, Holkham GM Nov 26th-Dec 31st, Horsey Dec 6th, Kelling WM Dec 9th/10th, 12th and 14th, Langham Airfield Dec 10th, Snettisham Dec 28th and 30th, Stubb Mill Dec 5th, Warham Greens Dec 5th, Wells Dec 7th, Waxham Dec 5th.

Appendix III - Category E. Escaped or feral individuals of species not on the British List

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*
Southern United States to Argentina, East Africa, Madagascar and southern Asia.
Gunton Park Lake Feb 22nd.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*
Australia and Tasmania.
Blakeney Harbour April 11th, 16th/17th and 23rd, June 14th, during July, Aug 27th and Sept 13th, Breydon Aug 6th, Cley Jan 1st-March 31st, April 15th, 17th, 24th and 25th, May 1st-Aug 2nd, Sept 15th and 17th, Oct 1st-Nov 3rd, Gillingham Marshes Jan 23rd, March 7th, 2 April 6th, 2 Dec 5th, 10th and 15th, Hickling Broad 2 March 25th, 2 April 12th and 28th, 2 several dates in May, 2 Sept 23rd and 25th, How Hill (Reedham Marsh) March 25th, Kelling Hard Feb 22nd heading east well offshore, Aug 13th, Mid-Yare Valley 3 April 29th, Nar Valley Fisheries Feb 15th, Potter Heigham 2 all year, Salthouse Aug 13th, all Oct, Stiffkey Fen May 16th, Oct 19th, Strumpshaw Fen up to 5 (2 adults + 3 young) March 27th-Dec7th but all young lost by May 28th. Same pair with new brood of 3 young from Oct 28th, with 2 surviving into Dec, Whitlingham CP Sept 10th, Oct 2nd and 16th, Nov 1st and 30th.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*
Eastern Asia.
Harleston Marshes Jan 1st-Dec 31st.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*
Alpine lakes in Central Asia, winters to India and Burma.
Brancaster Jan 3rd, Breydon Water 2 April 30th, 2 May 8th and 2 Nov 8th, Burnham Norton 2 Nov 7th and 24th, Dec 27th, Fowlmere June 8th, Gunton Park Lake Aug 18th, Holme Sept 20th and Oct 13th, Martham Broad June 10th, Pentney GP Oct 31st, Snettisham CP Jan 3rd and March 6th, Titchwell Sept 18th.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*
Canada to Mexico, Cuba and Bahamas.
Four Ranworth Broad Nov 19th.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*
Mexico to Argentina and Brazil.
Thetford Nunnery Jan 13th, Feb 11th, April 14th, June 17th, St. John's Fen End Jan 16th.
***ADDITIONAL NOTE*:** The record of 7 at the River Bure/Thurne Mouth July 4th in the 2009 Norfolk Bird Report comprised a brood, perhaps the first to be seen in the county.

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys*
Southern Brazil to Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and northeast Argentina.
Sidestrand Aug 28th, Sept 8th.

AUSTRALIAN SHOVELER *Anas rhynchotis*
Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand.
Cley Oct 16th.

CRESTED DUCK *Anas specularioides*
Andes of Peru to Tierra del Fuego and Falkland Islands.
Hickling Broad Feb 25th.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae*
Mountains of southeast Tibet and southwest China to northern Myanmar.
Houghton Dec 30th/31st.

REEVES'S PHEASANT *Syrmaticus reevesii*
North-central China.
Buckenham Feb 5th, Little Cressingham Jan 25th, Stanford TA max 5 all year, Strumpshaw Fen Feb 16th, March 5th.

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo christatus*
India and Sri Lanka.
Five East Carleton July 14th, South Wootton April 13th, Stanford TA first half of year only (found long dead July 17th) and Toft Monks Nov 5th.

NORTHERN BOBWHITE QUAIL *Colinus virginianus*
United States to Guatemala.
Repps-with-Bastwick April 19th.

TURKEY *Meleagris galloparvo*
United States to southern Mexico.
East Wretham Dec 12th.

LESSER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus minor*
Locally in Africa and Madagascar to northwest India.
Eccles, Sheringham and Walcott June 6th flying east offshore.

CHILEAN FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus chilensis*
Andes of South America, Pampas of southern Brazil, Paraguay and southern Argentina.
Two Cley June 18th-20th, then Morston and Blakeney Point on latter date.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*
Arid southwestern United States to northern Argentina, Chile and Brazil.
Bintree Mill April 10th, Guist Common March 31st, April 10th, 17th, 19th and 25th, May 1st, 11th and 23rd, July 2nd, Aug 23rd, Sept 2nd and 22nd, Oct 30th, Hickling Broad Jan 28th, Hickling April 17th, Sennowe Park March 23rd, Welney Nov 10th and Dec 31st.

RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis*
Widespread North and Central America and West Indies.
Bodney (Hollow Heath) Oct 31st, Edgefield July 23rd, Thetford Forest (Olley's Farm) March 4th.

SAKER *Falco cherrug*
South-central Eurasia, winters from eastern Mediterranean to India and Tibet.
Breydon March 26th, near Sculthorpe Oct 7th, Winterton May 14th.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo*
Europe and Asia.
Tilney All Saints Aug 3rd.

Appendix IV - Hybrids

Birds in this section are of proven, likely or possible feral origin. Genuinely wild hybrids, for example Hooded x Carrion Crows, Yellow x Blue-headed Wagtails and Glaucous x Herring Gulls, are included in the main Systematic List.

GREYLAG GOOSE x BAR-HEADED GOOSE
Buckenham Marshes Oct 5th.

GREYLAG GOOSE x CANADA GOOSE
Two Cley Oct several dates, 2 Kelling Quags Dec 11th, 4 Salthouse Dec 4th, Swanton Morley GP Jan 30th/31st, April 16th and 2 May 29th, Welney March 15th.

BARNACLE GOOSE x WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE
Flitcham Feb 17th.

BARNACLE GOOSE x SNOW GOOSE
Single Buckenham Marshes in both winter periods with Barnacle Geese.

BARNACLE GOOSE x ROSS'S GOOSE
Salthouse Dec 4th.

WIGEON x GADWALL
Breydon Oct 7th and 11th.

WIGEON x UNIDENTIFIED DUCK
Cley March 25th and April 16th.

UNIDENTIFIED *AYTHYA* HYBRID

Ormesby Little Broad Oct 31st, Thetford Nunnery Lakes Feb 10th, March 16th/17th and 20th, Nov 19th, Whitlingham CP Dec 19th and Wroxham Broad 14th/15th.

REEVES'S PHEASANT x COMMON PHEASANT

Threxton April 25th.

Earliest and Latest Dates for Summer Migrants

	Arrivals		*Departures*	
Garganey	7th March	Ouse Washes and Hickling Rush Hills	3rd November	Stiffkey Fen
Quail	24th March	Pentney Mill	17th October	Sheringham BO
Spoonbill	23rd March	Cley and Ormesby Little Broad	26th December	Stiffkey
Honey-Buzzard	24th April	Strumpshaw Fen	10th October	Sheringham BO
Montagu's Harrier	18th April	Roydon Common	18th October	Weybourne
Osprey	20th March	Burnham Overy Dunes	6th November	Hilgay
Hobby	6th April	Guestwick	21st October	Ranworth Broad
Little Ringed Plover	14th March	Welney	1st October	Nar Valley Fisheries
Whimbrel	4th April	Winterton	13th November	Morston
Wood Sandpiper	17th April	Hardley Flood	22nd September	Stiffkey Fen
Common Sandpiper	10th April	Titchwell	25th December	Wissington BF
Little Tern	16th April	Scolt Head	9th October	Holme
Sandwich Tern	22nd March	Cley	9th November	Sheringham
Common Tern	3rd April	Colney Pits	30th October	Cley
Arctic Tern	11th April	Colney Pits	7th December	Cley
Turtle Dove	19th April	Thornham	11th October	Weybourne
Cuckoo	10th April	Santon Downham	9th October	Holme
Nightjar	26th April	Dersingham Bog	26th August	Hickling Broad
Swift	10th April	Spooner Row	5th October	Burnham Overy GM, Hindringham and Holme
Sand Martin	17th March	Roydon Common and Titchwell	3rd October	Burnham Norton
Swallow	16th March	Whitlingham CP	15th November	Titchwell
House Martin	20th March	Salthouse and Titchwell	2nd November	Eastmoor, Barton Bendish
Willow Warbler	24th March	Holme and Titchwell	2nd November	Titchwell
Garden Warbler	15th April	Aylsham	17th October	Burnham Deepdale and Holme
Lesser Whitethroat	10th April	Holme	31st October	Holme
Whitethroat	4th April	Snettisham CP	10th October	Holme and Sheringham BO
Grasshopper Warbler	6th April	Snettisham CP	29th September	Holme
Sedge Warbler	30th March	Strumpshaw Fen, Titchwell and Welney	30th September	Sculthorpe Moor
Reed Warbler	17th April	Brancaster	17th October	Holkham Meals
Ring Ouzel	23rd March	Burnham Overy Dunes and Scolt Head	29th November	Wells Woods
Pied Flycatcher	19th April	Holme	18th October	Warham Greens
Spotted Flycatcher	1st May	Holme, Swafield and Yarmouth	17th October	Great Yarmouth Cemetery
Nightingale	12th April	Holme	22nd September	Blakeney Point
Redstart	7th April	Tottington	20th October	Wells
Whinchat	22nd April	Holme	23rd October	Wells
Wheatear	18th March	Sheringham BO and Titchwell	5th November	Hopton
White Wagtail	6th March	Breydon Water	5th October	Holkham Bay
Yellow Wagtail	26th March	Kelling	17th October	Cley
Tree Pipit	2nd April	Sheringham BO	22nd October	Bacton

Earliest and Latest Dates for Winter Migrants

	Departures		*Arrivals*	
Bewick's Swan	16th March	Mannington Hall	17th October	Breydon
Whooper Swan	16th April	Pentney GP	21st September	Welney
Taiga Bean Goose	15th March	Holkham	12th November	Buckenham Marshes
Tundra Bean Goose	15th March	Burnham Norton	20th November	Choseley
Pink-footed Goose	28th May	Scolt Head	4th September	Brancaster, Holme and Titchwell
White-fronted Goose	25th March	Ouse Washes	9th October	Cley
Long-tailed Duck	20th May	Titchwell	20th October	Sheringham
Goldeneye	25th April	Strumpshaw Fen	18th September	Filby Broad
Great Northern Diver	16th May	Sheringham	26th August	Sheringham
Red-necked Grebe	22nd May	Brancaster	30th August	Holme
Slavonian Grebe	11th April	Weybourne	26th September	Holme
Hen Harrier	27th May	Salthouse	29th August	Roydon Common
Merlin	6th June	Blakeney Point	22nd July	Berney Marshes
Purple Sandpiper	1st May	Eccles	28th July	Eccles
Jack Snipe	25th April	Strumpshaw Fen	19th September	Sculthorpe Moor
Shore Lark	13th May	Blakeney Point	27th September	Blakeney Point and Burnham Overy Dunes
Waxwing	12th April	Old Catton	6th October	Northrepps
Fieldfare	30th April	Stanford TA	14th August	Blakeney Point
Redwing	28th April	Happisburgh	8th September	Scolt Head
Rock Pipit	4th April	Blakeney GM	13th September	Blakeney Point
Water Pipit	16th April	Thorpe St. Andrew	7th October	Buckenham Marshes
Brambling	18th April	Hunstanton and Santon Downham	6th September	Southrepps
Twite	9th April	Titchwell	8th October	Sheringham
Snow Bunting	22nd April	Cley	13th September	Scolt Head
Lapland Bunting	12th April	Hardley Flood	27th August	Blakeney Point

BTO Nest Record Scheme totals for Norfolk 2010

Dr Dave Leech, Head of the Nest Record Scheme

It just felt like it was going to be a good nest monitoring year, didn't it? At least, that was the case around BTO HQ in Thetford, where long-distance migrants were in plentiful supply during the summer of 2010, none more so than Whitethroat and Reed Warbler. The increased number of breeding pairs was only part of the story, however, as day after day of dry, sunny weather maximised the potential time in the field; the breeding season is short enough as it is, without the continual threat of impending rain sending both bird and nest recorder scurrying into cover. Our optimistic predictions certainly held true for The Nunnery Ringing Group, as we notched up our highest ever totals for the aforementioned migrants, plus Linnet and Reed Bunting, but what about the rest of the county, and indeed the country?

Record Numbers of Nests Monitored in 2010

It seems that recorders in many parts of the UK experienced equally favourable conditions, with an incredible 39,000 nests monitored across the UK by a record-breaking 560 Nest Record Scheme (NRS) volunteers. Nesters in Norfolk were responsible for 1,900 of these records (Table 1), an increase of almost 20% on the previous year, securing our position as second in the county table, with only the Farne Island seabird colonies preventing us from pipping Northumberland to first place. Overall, submissions for 50 species were the highest for at least a decade, with those for 19 species being the largest on record.

National trends in nest monitoring for Stock Dove and Jackdaw, both beneficiaries of the increasing number of Barn Owl boxes erected in the British countryside, were mirrored locally, Norfolk submissions for species doubling in 2010. Our favourable impressions of migrant abundance were supported by a two-fold increase in the number of Whitethroat and Reed Warbler nests monitored in the county, and resident species were well represented too, with a welcome increase in Robin, Meadow Pipit and Reed Bunting submissions. As in previous years, records from Norfolk constituted a third of the UK total for Ringed Plover, and the number of Oystercatcher breeding attempts monitored in 2010 was equally impressive. County totals for Little Egret, Collared Dove, Barn Owl, Woodlark, Tree Pipit and Stonechat were also of national significance and it was fantastic to see two of our most recent colonists, Peregrine and Dartford Warbler, represented in the Norfolk NRS dataset for the first time.

A Good Year for Cavity Nesters in 2010

The main dataset is currently being checked and analysed ready for publication on the BirdTrends website (www.bto.org/birdtrends) in late autumn, but we have already been able to produce preliminary trends for seven of the more frequently recorded species (www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs/results). The results showed that 2010 was a great year for the hole-nesting passerines across the UK. Great Tit breeding success was significantly higher than the mean over the five preceding years, Blue Tits reared the highest number of chicks per nest for 18 years and Pied Flycatcher had the most productive season since 1982. In contrast, the breeding season for Swallow,

Blackbird and Tree Sparrow appeared to be distinctly average. Barn Owl was the only species identified as having performed poorly, with fledgling numbers the third lowest on record at just over three young per nest. Field vole numbers fluctuate markedly between years, and abundance of this key prey species was low during the spring of 2010. The extremely cold winter of 2009/10 may also have left females in poor condition at the start of the breeding season, resulting in below average clutch sizes. One bad year is not necessarily cause for alarm, however; Barn Owls are able to fledge as many as seven chicks per brood and can initiate several nesting attempts over a summer, so new recruits can be produced in large numbers. Early reports from 2011 suggest that this has been a much better year for the species.

Get Involved in Nest Recording

Nest monitoring is an incredibly accessible type of recording - almost anyone with a garden is likely to have a bird breeding in it, and all you need to do is look inside the nest once a week to record how many eggs and chicks are inside. No species is too common to consider - it is as important to collect information on the abundant species as it is on the rarer ones.

Guidelines on how to visit nests while minimising disturbance are given in the *Nest Recorder's Code of Conduct*, available on our website (www.bto.org/nrs) along with all the information you'll need to record you first nest. The BTO has recently published *A Field Guide to Monitoring Nests*, containing information about the nesting behaviour of 145 British species and outlining the best methods to find and monitor them, and we also run a small number of nest finding training courses each year.

In many ways, the 2011 season has been a repeat of 2010, with good numbers of migrants present and warm, sunny weather for much of the spring and summer, so we're hoping that it will be another good year for the Nest Record Scheme. Help us to make 2012 even better by joining the ever-increasing team of Norfolk nest recorders!

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Table 1. Norfolk Nest Record totals 2009-2010

	2009	*2010*	*UK 2010*
Little Grebe	2	1	50
Great Crested Grebe	-	3	155
Little Egret	17	26	44
Grey Heron	5	4	220
Mute Swan	2	2	142
Greylag Goose	4	4	52
Canada Goose	12	11	163
Egyptian Goose	-	3	16
Gadwall	-	2	15
Mallard	3	12	207
Tufted Duck	2	1	33
Marsh Harrier	2	4	23
Goshawk	3	1	104
Sparrowhawk	-	2	77
Buzzard	4	2	248
Kestrel	27	30	415
Hobby	6	1	63
Peregrine	-	1	127
Red-legged Partridge	1	1	7
Pheasant	1	-	30
Moorhen	16	18	387
Coot	12	9	978
Oystercatcher	2	50	307
Avocet	-	2	12
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	59
Ringed Plover	81	73	202
Lapwing	1	5	307
Curlew	-	1	35
Black-headed Gull	-	6	47
Little Tern	3	-	54
Feral Pigeon	18	6	23
Stock Dove	56	113	1045
Wood Pigeon	88	55	819
Collared Dove	26	34	192
Turtle Dove	-	1	15
Cuckoo	5	3	15
Barn Owl	260	264	1676
Little Owl	8	7	153
Tawny Owl	18	22	460
Nightjar	1	3	75
Swift	3	1	142
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	152
Woodlark	14	18	102
Skylark	7	2	47
Swallow	175	187	3181
House Martin	-	4	283
Tree Pipit	28	21	36
Meadow Pipit	1	9	145

	2009	*2010*	*UK 2010*
Yellow Wagtail	6	-	14
Grey Wagtail	5	-	85
Pied Wagtail	26	17	180
Wren	11	10	227
Dunnock	26	28	331
Robin	11	31	444
Nightingale	-	1	13
Redstart	-	1	136
Stonechat	38	29	135
Blackbird	107	124	1463
Song Thrush	20	17	501
Mistle Thrush	3	4	82
Grasshopper Warbler	-	1	17
Sedge Warbler	2	3	48
Reed Warbler	60	123	639
Dartford Warbler	-	1	12
Lesser Whitethroat	1	-	15
Whitethroat	10	24	163
Garden Warbler	1	5	58
Blackcap	3	6	142
Chiffchaff	9	2	197
Willow Warbler	9	13	188
Goldcrest	-	1	14
Spotted Flycatcher	10	9	130
Long-tailed Tit	22	21	323
Marsh Tit	1	-	64
Coal Tit	2	1	90
Blue Tit	76	102	5558
Great Tit	113	114	4668
Nuthatch	2	2	186
Treecreeper	2	3	69
Magpie	1	-	65
Jay	-	1	15
Jackdaw	27	73	498
Carrion Crow	2	3	163
Starling	14	9	315
House Sparrow	1	2	345
Chaffinch	28	33	364
Greenfinch	8	12	139
Goldfinch	5	10	128
Linnet	25	27	283
Bullfinch	2	-	77
Yellowhammer	16	7	85
Reed Bunting	1	9	93
Corn Bunting	4	3	75

Wetland Bird Survey - North Norfolk Coast

Neil Lawton

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Mute Swan	35	36	64	87	92	83	81	68	101	61	51	56
Whooper Swan	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tundra Bean Goose	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	29519	731	998	834	10	-	-	1	4033	3222	1378	5647
White-fronted Goose	97	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	6	257
Greylag Goose	1052	801	731	832	884	659	908	1859	1153	1262	1265	651
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	96	128	132	108	95	157	119	235	133	237	314	194
Barnacle Goose	-	47	6	1	4	-	-	6	6	8	3	12
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	4773	5914	3655	2904	2481	4	1	-	-	2917	4685	5659
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	3	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Black Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Egyptian Goose	40	20	50	57	89	57	22	156	99	94	56	57
Shelduck	938	919	1027	868	855	581	317	159	165	269	638	1034
Mandarin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wigeon	4991	7557	3464	192	21	26	9	1	1144	5117	509	11148
Gadwall	233	152	201	300	334	418	96	212	124	224	149	183
Teal	4204	1200	1049	543	7	69	175	669	2878	4248	4306	3198
Mallard	1697	737	742	540	715	839	554	1004	1075	1129	1230	1207
Pintail	485	218	22	5	-	1	-	-	79	250	280	234
Shoveler	100	160	251	222	122	84	38	48	131	206	282	109
Red-crested Pochard	-	3	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pochard	43	53	43	45	34	39	10	14	17	24	22	30
Tufted Duck	54	106	100	106	127	83	46	76	74	77	79	82
Scaup	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Eider	77	16	31	86	31	24	11	17	22	10	21	52
Long-tailed Duck	15	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10
Common Scoter	2003	3605	6679	3055	2017	-	-	250	400	400	1039	2054
Velvet Scoter	-	-	27	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Goldeneye	58	71	49	6	-	-	2	-	-	1	16	96
Red-breasted Merganser	25	26	107	20	1	-	-	-	-	29	81	83
Goosander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Red-throated Diver	15	6	7	2	-	-	-	-	6	10	16	33
Black-throated Diver	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Northern Diver	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Gannet	-	-	-	8	2	5	-	93	29	51	3	-
Cormorant	64	64	223	232	274	232	386	197	172	187	105	22
Shag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	3
Bittern	2	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Little Egret	55	48	65	165	177	136	113	177	245	193	172	49
Grey Heron	12	7	9	33	28	34	15	24	14	25	23	8
Spoonbill	-	-	-	-	2	2	19	31	23	1	1	2
Little Grebe	53	30	42	41	36	17	17	32	36	62	57	44
Great Crested Grebe	11	4	21	11	10	6	2	2	10	5	37	24
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Slavonian Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Water Rail	6	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	4
Moorhen	253	206	214	123	128	105	89	141	113	126	160	292
Coot	296	274	366	241	266	255	197	373	180	152	155	202
Crane	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Oystercatcher	2166	2734	3485	2160	1875	1245	1721	2815	2914	3458	4271	3537
Avocet	41	82	387	468	538	498	432	69	16	30	19	17
Little Ringed Plover	-	-	-	-	-	1	18	8	-	-	-	-
Ringed Plover	177	183	260	251	754	230	253	1068	1317	595	126	256
Golden Plover	2599	1037	251	152	1	-	32	417	2152	2840	3815	236
Grey Plover	643	724	767	596	421	45	161	1102	2097	1981	885	1125
Lapwing	2721	1883	569	438	399	330	367	578	438	531	1881	2342
Knot	1483	3062	1401	656	98	5179	484	1194	2729	0673	6625	776 5017
Sanderling	1306	470	356	454	657	31	90	707	1073	454	620	1016
Little Stint	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	-	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	40	5	-	-
Dunlin	3831	2372	1340	307	566	-	727	1813	1303	1842	2899	3873
Ruff	44	62	56	16	1	-	36	50	47	46	131	38
Jack Snipe	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Snipe	217	115	31	32	2	-	17	51	45	55	74	60
Woodcock	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10
Black-tailed Godwit	218	54	90	171	399	660	532	591	616	460	292	414
Bar-tailed Godwit	1454	4094	5010	590	67	1192	457	502	708	10451	3448	3800
Whimbrel	-	-	-	13	19	-	77	197	13	-	-	-
Curlew	1394	1635	1119	693	151	213	1546	1710	2109	1790	1556	1471
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	12	-	26	43	6	1	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	3	47	68	11	2	1	-
Spotted Redshank	4	8	3	5	-	-	19	14	13	14	4	3
Greenshank	-	2	1	4	9	2	43	124	107	82	13	2
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	4	1	2	4	1	-	-	-
Redshank	1333	849	956	805	515	528	1215	1595	1169	995	1250	1330
Turnstone	456	431	363	318	555	71	258	640	571	461	495	452
Red-necked Phalarope	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Grey Phalarope	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Arctic Skua	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	1	-	-	-
Great Skua	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Kittiwake	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	3255	2287	2461	3336	4788	5544	2833	2320	2144	1664	1618	1029
Little Gull	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mediterranean Gull	-	1	5	4	1	9	27	1	-	1	1	-
Common Gull	2686	2065	187	141	318	55	27	53	162	381	1011	3845
Lesser Black-backed Gull	8	42	121	236	317	36	80	139	24	50	13	55
Herring Gull	12948	6329	2256	1813	2676	916	426	724	1687	1607	2415	1317
Yellow-legged Gull	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	420	153	222	162	157	147	75	149	374	387	317	76
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	401	370	502	106	-	-	-	-
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
Sandwich Tern	-	-	-	203	3473	3787	1438	579	185	3	-	-
Common Tern	-	-	-	1	362	310	244	110	38	-	-	-
Arctic Tern	-	-	-	-	2	19	9	-	-	-	-	-
Guillemot	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	-

Maximum Monthly Counts 2010 - Breydon and Berney

Peter Allard

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Mute Swan	49	63	43	67	67	57	41	47	49	43	56	87
Bewick's Swan	0	76	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	4	47
Pink-footed Goose	7500	12000	8400	96	0	0	0	0	1465	4800	8200	9000
White-fronted Goose	33	28	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	97
Greylag Goose	92	69	21	11	21	9	19	123	198	240	170	157
Canada Goose	22	17	22	8	15	17	28	63	37	14	20	21
Brent Goose	104	114	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	15	146
Egyptian Goose	11	2	2	8	21	112	102	60	192	67	8	11
Shelduck	38	93	84	259	327	364	121	32	91	67	40	102
Wigeon	23770	20200	14100	435	5	2	2	5	472	1270	9200	14850
Gadwall	27	71	112	46	17	17	3	4	3	11	32	136
Teal	1219	1337	1183	470	19	12	21	110	275	490	861	1217
Mallard	252	172	77	42	65	102	31	163	540	281	205	286
Pintail	101	47	43	4	0	0	0	2	55	78	64	71
Garganey	0	0	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Shoveler	241	319	496	82	9	15	17	28	7	236	568	114
Pochard	0	2	70	19	11	14	6	0	0	0	7	11
Tufted Duck	27	45	23	13	3	4	4	0	1	4	8	36
Little Grebe	4	1	8	6	6	6	10	7	6	7	9	11
Great Crested Grebe	4	17	11	8	6	8	5	13	15	17	9	9
Cormorant	150	19	11	9	11	12	36	40	22	19	16	11
Little Egret	4	4	18	22	28	42	67	74	84	85	51	11
Spoonbill	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Oystercatcher	4	5	72	93	60	34	80	47	9	6	1	3
Avocet	189	189	380	236	46	156	914	982	919	125	95	151
Ringed Plover	60	46	57	167	198	246	7	128	135	140	78	59
Golden Plover	1908	3000	4830	83	1	1	74	1460	3123	13700	18100	2116
Grey Plover	44	49	40	8	15	4	3	5	16	28	36	46
Lapwing	2960	4000	2100	314	280	205	28	200	488	2240	10700	2050
Knot	165	162	154	18	9	6	12	34	38	25	83	181
Sanderling	6	0	49	21	30	4	2	12	2	1	4	5
Little Stint	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	18	1	0	0
Dunlin	5108	4870	1560	1570	373	55	173	177	464	882	3910	5325
Ruff	22	38	37	0	1	0	24	32	5	8	11	56
Snipe	19	5	18	12	9	2	5	28	23	35	34	10
Black-tailed Godwit	670	290	955	820	217	226	319	446	320	524	2329	2121
Bar-tailed Godwit	104	118	112	19	30	7	3	21	25	28	60	116
Whimbrel	0	0	0	116	110	1	6	14	1	0	0	0
Curlew	529	629	1014	244	43	78	322	817	923	712	709	1320
Spotted Redshank	1	5	2	6	7	3	4	4	6	7	5	1
Redshank	320	735	1124	1120	190	170	544	957	980	890	780	411
Greenshank	0	0	0	25	45	1	11	11	16	5	0	0
Green Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	0
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	19	1	2	2	2	1	0	0
Turnstone	5	4	5	4	6	5	4	6	4	3	5	7
Little Gull	0	1	0	51	1	5	3	3	0	0	0	0
Mediterranean Gull	61	72	57	17	12	13	39	293	246	117	66	53
Black Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0

Wetland Bird Survey - The Wash 2009

Neil Lawton and Jim Scott

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Mute Swan	24	12	10	18	2	7	-	2	8	16	19	22
Bewick's Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Pink-footed Goose	61846	6506	2000	-	-	-	-	-	14	300	-	15740
Greylag Goose	1248	503	443	558	218	651	1126	1112	626	582	964	887
Canada Goose	64	60	96	60	15	96	151	161	71	283	91	97
Barnacle Goose	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	1
Brent Goose	2711	2957	1889	1278	266	-	2	-	15	100	2210	239
Egyptian Goose	2	2	2	3	1	13	11	8	75	78	6	-
Shelduck	3507	1944	949	628	727	2439	787	946	2407	1436	1527	611
Wigeon	2288	579	81	2	2	-	1	2	308	266	2239	1488
Gadwall	34	54	20	14	19	24	3	5	16	8	32	44
Teal	1066	330	21	-	-	-	2	50	188	112	1150	1566
Mallard	1011	282	179	259	91	285	188	357	597	687	1474	1486
Pintail	219	46	12	8	-	-	-	-	55	33	242	116
Shoveler	2	3	9	8	7	5	-	7	19	20	2	1
Pochard	14	8	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ferruginous Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tufted Duck	32	52	54	68	28	30	8	8	23	18	26	21
Scaup	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Eider	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goldeneye	28	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	16
Red-breasted Merganser	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	1
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4
Red-throated Diver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Cormorant	78	50	18	33	9	12	98	108	165	127	54	24
Little Grebe	11	6	5	1	-	-	3	3	9	11	22	20
Great Crested Grebe	2	8	-	5	9	-	-	2	2	1	17	-
Little Egret	27	11	11	12	4	10	103	128	228	130	79	7
Grey Heron	4	3	1	3	1	9	9	6	24	17	13	2
Moorhen	14	27	18	16	5	16	12	13	11	32	24	15
Coot	34	41	10	8	3	20	14	25	24	40	31	26
Oystercatcher	3225	2869	1497	1656	893	794	3226	3936	3665	4090	4236	1896
Avocet	-	69	423	300	381	332	240	222	1316	2	1	-
Ringed Plover	1	28	55	31	183	45	64	850	184	91	3	2
Golden Plover	110	8	-	-	-	-	624	317	253	311	1471	865
Grey Plover	1577	2527	736	3018	3380	18	40	627	1227	2383	1976	483
Lapwing	1384	32	8	12	4	11	209	10	24	5	3736	1611
Knot	5090	24550	20127	3700	100	1821	10000	5237	15114	18540	90367	13851
Sanderling	114	5	75	15	-	6	3050	4887	550	3324	84	130
Little Stint	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dunlin	8550	8848	5720	10402	2941	15	14685	12145	13542	9065	11472	2138
Ruff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-

Top left; Woodchat Shrike at Winterton Dunes. *(Steve Gantlett)*
Top right; Lesser Grey Shrike at Kelling Hard. *(Steve Gantlett)*
Bottom; Red-backed Shrike at Gramborough Hill, Salthouse. *(Steve Gantlett)*

Top left; Northern Treecreeper at Kelling. The first fully documented record. *(Edward Stubbings)*
Top right; Iceland Redpoll – the first county record. *(Andy Stoddart)*
Cantreleft; Common Rosefinch at Stiffkey. *(Ashley McElwee)*
Centre right; Northern Bullfinch at Sea Palling. *(Neil Bowman)*
Bottom; Brambling at Stiffkey. *(Penny Clarke)*

Top; Trumpeter Finch at Cley – the second county record. *(Both; Bob Cobbold)*
Centre left and right; Lapland Bunting at Salthouse. *(Julian Bhalerao)*
Bottom left and right; Ortolan Bunting on Kelling Heath. *(Julian Bhalerao)*

Top; Snow Buntings and a lone Shore Lark at Salthouse. *(Tony Howes)*
Bottom; Mill Marsh – the broad. *(Christopher Mason)*

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Common Snipe	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	13	-	1	-
Black-tailed Godwit	3	164	31	521	349	-	1775	1979	731	270	20	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	1800	1500	308	250	200	372	1094	1539	1802	2213	2558	2074
Whimbrel	-	-	-	11	-	-	61	38	149	8	1	-
Curlew	1441	1482	362	79	8	16	3202	3866	7008	2443	1384	465
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	9	-	-	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	1	1	-
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	24	2	7	-	-
Greenshank	-	-	-	4	1	-	34	75	27	20	-	-
Redshank	343	640	853	308	78	99	1632	3800	5585	3687	2204	255
Turnstone	8	33	134	72	109	4	364	204	195	196	78	13

Non-accepted Records

Species	*Site*	*Date*
2010		
American Wigeon	Welney	12th November
Pacific Diver	Titchwell	3rd January
Black-browed Albatross	Salthouse	30th October
Cory's Shearwater	Holme	13th August
Masked Booby	Mundesley & Eccles	12th August
Great White Egret	Burnham Overy	11th April
Great White Egret (3)	New Costessey	9th November
Purple Heron	Wayford/Stalham	3rd June
Black Kite	Gissing	30th May
Black Kite	Thornham & Titchwell	12th June
Black Kite	Gissing	19th June
Goshawk	Gorleston	19th April
Goshawk	Sheringham	23rd October
Red-footed Falcon	Holt	20th April
Red-footed Falcon	Cley	21st September
Eleonora's Falcon	Winterton	5th October
Corncrake	Cockley Cley/Hilborough	9th May
Spotted Crake (2)	South Creake	21st August
Spotted Crake	Blakeney Point	27th September
Red-necked Stint	Hickling Broad	1st August
Sabine's Gull	Holme	25th September
Alpine Swift	Titchwell	9th August
Raven	Kelling Heath	24th June
Raven	Kenninghall	15th August
Raven	Walpole Highway	19th September
Raven (2)	Sparham	8th October
Raven	Flitcham	26th October
Willow Tit	Sculthorpe Moor	31st January
Willow Tit	Thompson Common	21st November
Northern Long-tailed Tit (2)	Northrepps	4th November
Greenish Warbler	Hoveton	19th August
Savi's Warbler	Wells East Hills	27th September

2010 continued

Melodious Warbler	Holkham Meals	2nd October
Marsh Warbler	Bayfield	5th August
Red-throated Pipit	Gorleston	28th September
Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll	Kelling WM	11th October
Northern Bullfinch	Hellesdon	30th November
Northern Bullfinch	Holt	15th December
Northern Bullfinch	Blackborough End GP	21st December

2009

Blue-winged Teal	Berney Marshes	3rd May
Cory's Shearwater	Sheringham	18th July
Cory's Shearwater	Sheringham	7th September
Great Shearwater	Sheringham	15th September
Roseate Tern	Hickling Broad	26th July
Dark-breasted Barn Owl	Welney	28th January to 29th March

2008

Blyth's Reed Warbler	Wells Woods	4th-8th October

2007

Arctic Warbler	Waxham	22nd October

1989

Ehrenberg's Redstart	Holkham Meals	12th September

1987

Black-browed Albatross	Sheringham & Salthouse	18th October

1984

Ehrenberg's Redstart	Holkham Meals	24th September

1975

Ehrenberg's Redstart	Heacham	26th October

Ringing Report

Allan Hale

A total of 64,863 birds of 146 species was reported as being ringed in Norfolk during 2010. Both the number of birds ringed and the species handled represented record highs. The reasons behind the increase of nearly 15,000 compared with the previous year are many, but the more significant ones are 1,640 more Robins (a huge autumn passage), 1,200 more Goldfinches (increased feeding in gardens), 1,000 more Greenfinches (a partial recovery from the trichomoniasis virus), 940 more Blackbirds and 5,600 more Blue and Great Tits. Birds not ringed previously in the county (but going back only 20 years) were Peregrine (nestlings at King's Lynn), Arctic and Hume's Warblers (migrants at Holme Bird Observatory) and Dartford Warbler (nestlings at Kelling Heath).

Impressive ringing numbers of our breeding species included 61 Little Egrets, 30 Marsh Harriers, 42 Grasshopper Warblers and 53 Firecrests, almost all of the latter coming from Thetford Forest. Migrants and winter visitors included 37 Waxwings, 9 Barred Warblers, 21 Lapland Buntings and a single Red-flanked Bluetail. The downside included only 50 Cetti's Warblers (almost 50% down on the previous year), only 2 Turtle Doves and only 4 Willow Tits (compared with 294 Marsh Tits!).

As always the recoveries came from far and wide. As time goes on, ringing is gradually uncovering the outstanding secrets of migration as well as monitoring the fortunes of our non-migratory species.

Thanks to all Norfolk ringers for access to their data, and especially to Steve and Alison Wakeham for the Wash Wader Ringing Group recoveries and their interpretation. Special thanks also to David and Pat Wileman for pulling together the many colour-ringed birds seen in the Cley area.

Selected Norfolk Recoveries Notified During 2010

Ringing details are shown on the first line whilst recovery information is on the second. Where movements to foreign parts are involved, comments such as 'the second to France' refer just to Norfolk birds, unless specified otherwise.

Mute Swan

Adult (F)	22-04-2008	East Chisenbury, Wiltshire
Field sighting	10-01-2010	Whitlingham Gravel Pits, Norwich (262km ENE)

The longest movement of the year is shown.

Bewick's Swan

Adult	19-12-2005	Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands (to 27-12-2005)
Field Sighting	28-01-2006	Schiepolder, Noord-Brabant, The Netherlands
Field sighting	09-12-2006	Marbäck, Alvsborgs Lan, Sweden (until 10-12-2006)
Field sighting	10-03-2007	Hornborga Lake, Skaraborgs Lan, Sweden
Field sighting	31-10-2007	Noord-Holland, The Netherlands (until 09-12-2007)
Field sighting	20-12-2007	Ellignies-St. Anne. Hainaut, Belgium (until 23-12.2007)
Field sighting	26-12-2007	Sint-Laureins, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Field sighting	30-12-2007	Aardenburg, Zeeland, The Netherlands
Field sighting	31-12-2007	Bassevelde Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium (until 08-01-2008)
Field sighting	25-01-2008	Princebossen, Noord-Brabant Belgium (until 27-01-2008)
Field sighting	10-02-2008	Ahlen, Emsland, Niedersachsen, Germany

Field sighting	16-11-2008	Zeeland, The Netherlands (until 15-12-2008)
Field sighting	18-12-2008	Sint-Margriete, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium (until 27-12-2008)
Field sighting	27-12-2008	Noord-Holland, The Netherlands
Field sighting	28-12-2008	Aardenburg, Eekloosche, Zeeland, The Netherlands
Field sighting	28-12-2008	Sint-Margriete Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Field sighting	29-12-2008	Zeeland, The Netherlands (until 30-01-2009)
Field sighting	12-02-2009	Niedersachsen, Germany (until 02-03-2009)
Field sighting	12-11-2009	Welney Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Field sighting	11-01-2010	March, Cambridgeshire (until 13-01-2010)
Field sighting	26-02-2010	Niedersachsen, Germany (until 12-03-2010)
Field sighting	24-10-2010	Gudenieki, Latvia
Field sighting	02.01.2011	Ludham/Catfield (until 25-01-2011)

A complex history involving The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Latvia and England. For the sake of completeness a record from 2011 has been included.

Whooper Swan

Adult (F)	06-02-2008	Welney
Long dead	17-06-2010	Barkarstadir, Rangarvalla, Iceland (1,704km NW)
Adult (M)	13-03-2009	Welney
Long dead	12-08-2010	near Lonsfjordur, Iceland (1,579km NNW)

The 15th and 16th to Iceland - the only foreign country where Norfolk-ringed Whooper Swans have been seen.

Pink-footed Goose

Adult (F)	20-10-1990	Martin Mere, Lancashire
Shot	21-01-2010	Brancaster Beach (244km ESE)

An aged bird, but still not approaching the British longevity record which exceeds 38 years.

Greylag Goose

Adult (M)	22-06-2009	Reeuwijkse Plassen, The Netherlands (until 16-02-2010)
Field sighting	11-03-2010	Cley Marshes (271km WNW)

Shown is one of the two from the Dutch feral population to be found in the county during the year. This bird crossed the North Sea to try and escape the freezing conditions in The Netherlands. The scheme coordinator there said it was the third of his birds to cross to England that winter. It was accompanied at Cley by an unringed female, and continued to be seen there until 02-06-10, when it went missing until 21-11-10, re-appearing at Cley. It is interesting to speculate if and where it bred during the summer. Previously, other foreign-ringed birds have come from Poland, Belgium and Spain (2) as well as another from The Netherlands.

Brent Goose

Adult (M)	07-08-2005	Lake Lidia, Pyasina Delta, Taimyr, Siberia, Russia
Field sighting	09-04-2006	Greesiel and Aurich areas, NW Germany (until 15-04-2006)
Field sighting	08-02-2007	Greesiel and Aurich areas, NW Germany (until 13-04-2007)
Field sighting	24-03-2008	Greesiel and Aurich areas, NW Germany (until 15-04-2006)

Field sighting	26-03-2010	Cley Marshes
Field sighting	08-04-2010	Greesiel and Aurich areas, NW Germany

One of four colour-ringed birds of the dark-bellied form *bernicla* to be seen in the Cley area during the year.

Teal

1st Year (M)	12-10-2007	Strangford Lough, Down, Northern Ireland
Shot	01-09-2010	Pope's Marsh, Salthouse (473km ESE)
First-year	25-10-2009	Manor Farm, Hickling
Shot	29-11-2010	Conde sur Escaut, Nord, France (291km SSE)

The longest movement of the year and the 20th to France are shown.

Pochard

Adult (M)	15-12-2009	Welney
Shot	29-12-2010	Saky, Krym, Ukraine (2,562km ESE)
Adult (F)	17-02-2010	Welney
Shot	11-09-2010	Chmelnitzkiy, Khmelnitsk, Ukraine (1,903km ESE)

The 3rd and 4th to Ukraine are shown. There were also 4 movements to Russia taking the total for that country to 23.

Fulmar

Nestling	31-07-1987	Ferkingstadoyane, Karmoy, Rogaland, Norway
Found dead	07-07-2010	Sheringham (737km SSW)

The first foreign-ringed Fulmar to be found in Norfolk. Although almost 23 years of age, it was only just over halfway towards the British longevity record.

Cormorant

Nestling	25-07-2009	Inverbervie, Grampian, Scotland
Shot	22-02-2010	Swanton Morley (502km SSE)

Doubtless shot to protect fishing interests.

Shag

Nestling	24-07-2010	Inner Farne, Farne Islands, Northumberland
Found dead	29-09-2010	Poringland, Norwich (390km SSE)

Found dead after a storm. There were also 3 recoveries from the more usual origin of the Isle of May.

Little Egret

Nestling	31-05-2009	near Terrington St. Clement, King's Lynn
Found dead	30-01-2010	Pasaxe Do Pedrido, Oleiros, Coruna, Spain (1,227km SSW)

The first foreign recovery from this regularly-ringed breeding colony. It represents the first Norfolk-ringed bird to Spain. The only other foreign recovery was from France.

Grey Heron

Nestling	03-06-1997	Frostensskarv, Brakne-Hoby, Blekinge, Sweden
Unknown	07-08-2010	10 miles SW of Norwich (988km WSW)

Note the age of this bird, which was the 8th from Sweden out of 27 foreign-ringed birds found in the county. The vast majority were from the north. Seventeen Norfolk-ringed Herons have been found abroad, almost all to the south.

Spoonbill

Twelve Dutch-ringed Spoonbills were seen in Norfolk during the year, bringing the total to 114 (all were from The Netherlands).

Montagu's Harrier

Nestling (F)	18-07-2008	Villeneuve, Puy-de-Dome, France
Field record	28-04-2010	Horsey (816km N)

The first foreign-ringed bird to be found in the county. Six Norfolk-ringed have been found abroad, in The Netherlands, France (4) and Senegal.

Oystercatcher

First-year	25-08-1968	Snettisham
Found dead	11-04-2010	King's Lynn (12km S)
First-year	05-09-1975	Terrington
Found dead	25-12-2010	Snettisham (14km NE)
After 3rd year	17-02-2007	Heacham
Found dead	31-05-2010	Engdal, Halsa, More og Romsdal, Norway (1,243km NNE)

The first Oystercatcher to be found over 40 years after being ringed. Unfortunately this bird was reported as 'not fresh' when found. As such the date of death cannot accurately be assessed, so it does not qualify for the official longevity record which remains in place - but this was extended to 40 years 1 month by another Wash-ringed bird (in Lincolnshire) in July 2010. Oystercatcher, therefore, becomes only the 4th species (and the first wader) from the BTO ringing scheme to be recovered over 40 years after ringing, joining Manx Shearwater, Razorbill, and Fulmar.

The second shown is another Oystercatcher reaching the noteworthy age of 35 years. Lastly, the longest distance Oystercatcher recovery of the year, a fairly typical example moving to the stronghold Norwegian breeding grounds.

Avocet

Nestling	13-06-1997	Site Confidential, Norfolk
Field record	27-11-1997	Tamar Estuary, Devon (409km SW)
Field record	28-09-1999	Brownsea Island, Dorset (304km SW)
Field record	28-06-2010	Lauwersmeer, Groningen, The Netherlands (376km E)

The third to The Netherlands. The only other foreign recovery was to France.

Ringed Plover

First-year	16-08-2010	Makkevika, Giske, More og Romsdal, Norway
Field sighting	10-09-2010	Cley Marshes, until 20-09-2010 (1,101km SSW)
First-year	17-10-2001	Ynyslas, Borth, Dyfed, Wales
Predated	12-07-2010	Great Yarmouth (391km E)
Nestling	05-07-1999	Easington, Yorkshire
Re-caught	12-08-2010	Snettisham (87km SSE)

The breeding birds in southern Norway are said to lie within the zone of intergradation between the nominate and *tundrae* forms. It was, however, ringed in an area where few Ringed Plovers breed

and in August when migrants from further north would be passing through. The recorded weight and wing length when ringed appear to be very low for this species (possibly suggesting *tundrae*) but it was a bird of the year.

Recoveries in Norfolk of Welsh-ringed birds are not common for any species. However, Ringed Plovers to and from the county are from all points of the compass. The third shows the only Wash Wader Ringing Group recapture of the year - a nestling from Yorkshire.

Knot

First-year	17-10-2004	Heacham
Re-caught	25-05-2006	Hlidsnes, Alftanes, Kjos, Kjosarsysla, Iceland (1,792km NW)

This bird, of the *islandica* race, will have been *en route* to its breeding grounds in northern Greenland or Arctic Canada.

Sanderling

Adult	24-10-2009	near Assenko, Ghana
Field sighting	09-11-2009	Amansure river mouth, Ghana (and again 20-11-2009)
Field sighting	10-08-2010	Blakeney Point
Adult	23-01-2009	near Assenko, Ghana (until 26-03-2009)
Field sighting	27-05-2009	west of Holme-next-the-Sea
Field sighting	24-07-2010	Blakeney Point
After first-year	24-07-2005	Heacham
Re-caught	14-05-2010	Ardivachar, South Uist, Western Isles, Scotland (705km NW)

The first and second from Ghana (there have been none in the opposite direction). The last shown is the first Sanderling interchange between the Wash and the Western Isles. This bird will have been caught whilst on northward migration towards its breeding grounds in the High Arctic.

Dunlin

Nestling	25-07-1999	Zackenberg, East Greenland, Greenland
Re-caught	31-08-1999	Terrington (2,587km SSE)
After 2nd-year	06-05-2008	Rio Arillo, San Fernando, Cadiz, Spain
Re-caught	12-08-2010	Snettisham (1,899km NNE)
First-year	09-09-2010	Easington, Yorkshire
Re-caught	12-09-2010	Terrington (94km S)

Details only recently received of the first shown, a nestling of the form *arctica*, ringed near the Danish-run Zackenburg Research Centre - only the second Greenland-ringed Dunlin to be found on the Wash. The second shown is the 15th Spanish-ringed Dunlin to be found on the Wash. On passage when controlled, this bird is likely to have been on northward passage when originally caught in Spain. The last shown is an example of rapid movement during autumn migration.

Black-tailed Godwit

After 2nd-year	02-08-1996	Terrington
Field sighting	26-03-2010	Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands (323km E)

Only the 12th Wash-ringed Black-tailed Godwit to be found in The Netherlands, where the European nominate *limosa* form predominates. Colour-ringing of Black-tailed Godwits has

demonstrated that the majority of those occurring on the Wash are of the form *islandica*, migrating from Iceland to spend the winter. Over 20 colour-ringed birds were noted at Cley, but no significant new information was gained over and above the comprehensive data shown in last year's Report.

Curlew

After first-year	30-08-2007	Ken Hill, Heacham
Found dead	01-03-2010	Verdal, Nord-Trondelag, Norway (1,379km NNE)

Surprisingly, the first Wash-ringed Curlew to be found in Norway. Reported as having falling victim to a farm harvester, it was described as 'long dead', so presumably when the harvester was being prepared for a new season.

Redshank

First-year	31-08-1999	Terrington
Shot	30-10-2009	Ile Grande, Cotes-du-Nord, France (522km SSW)

The only Redshank overseas control or recovery reported during the year. Sadly, as is too often the case when our waders are recovered in France, the victim of a shotgun.

Greenshank

Adult	17-10-2009	Goulven Bay, Brittany, France
Field sighting	30-05-2010	Cley Marshes

This, the first sighting since the bird was ringed, represents the first French-ringed Greenshank to be found in Britain. There have been 30 movements in the opposite direction.

Turnstone

After 2nd-year	26-02-2000	Port Sutton Bridge
Field sighting	21-05-2009	Husavik, Sudur-Thingeyjar, Iceland (1,770km NNW)

The application of colour rings to this bird, as part of the study of Sutton Bridge Turnstones, undoubtedly contributed to the finding of this individual in Iceland - the 7th Wash-ringed Turnstone to be found there. This bird will have been on northward migration towards its breeding grounds in Greenland or northeast Canada.

Great Skua

Nestling	23-07-2009	Hermaness, Unst, Shetland, Scotland
Long dead	15-02-2010	Terrington Marsh (907km S)

Dead Great Skuas are seldom found in Norfolk, let alone ringed ones. One of very few Shetland-ringed species likely to travel through the county.

Black-headed Gull

After 2nd-year	25-03-1998	Frognerparken, Oslo, Akershus, Norway
Field record	01-02-1999	The Mere, Diss (1,029km SW)
Field record	24-12-1999	The Mere, Diss
Field record	13-01-2001	The Mere, Diss
Field record	18-12-2001	The Mere, Diss
Field record	25-02-2004	The Mere, Diss
Field record	03-01-2010	The Mere, Diss

This year's contribution from the Diss 'gull-watcher' shows the 32nd from Norway. Foreign-ringed birds found in Norfolk also came from Finland (the 94th from that country), Sweden (the 31st and 32nd) and Germany (the 21st).

Mediterranean Gull

Adult	20-05-2003	Skoki-Duze Gravel Pit, Wroclawek, Poland
Field sighting	25-05-2006	Westdorpe, Terneuzen, The Netherlands
Field sighting	11-10-2006	Aberdaron, Gwynedd, Wales
Field sighting	09-09-2007	Porth Neigwl, Gwynedd, Wales
Field sighting	01-07-2008	Old Moor RSPB, Barnsley, Yorkshire
Field sighting	06-04-2010	Cley Marshes (1,236km W)

Foreign colour-ringed Mediterranean Gulls are regularly noted at Great Yarmouth Beach but are much less common elsewhere. This represents the 6th from Poland.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Nestling	27-06-2010	Outer Bund, off Terrington
Field sighting	21-11-2010	Quarteira Port, Faro, Algarve, Portugal (1,869km SSW)
Nestling	06-07-2009	Klaegbanke, Skjern, Jylland, Denmark
Sick	12-07-2010	Snettisham, Hunstanton (610km WSW)

The first, as with similar examples from previous years, a typical southward movement for a juvenile Lesser Black-Backed Gull in its first winter. The second shows the only foreign-ringed bird found during the year. Incoming birds seen at Cley came from Iceland and The Netherlands.

Herring Gull

Nestling	21-06-2009	Outer Bund, off Terrington
Found dead	02-04-2010	Vierpolders, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands (287km ESE)

This year's only overseas recovery from the Outer Bund Herring Gull colony. The bird was found drowned.

Caspian Gull

Nestling	22-05-2008	Zwirownia Zakole A, Jankowice, Babice, Bielsko-Biala, Poland
Field sighting	17-02-2010	Earsham (1,285km WNW)

The 8th from Poland out of 9 foreign-ringed birds to be found in Norfolk. The other came from France.

Great Black-backed Gull

There were 5 Norwegian-ringed Great Black-backs found in Norfolk, bringing the total from that country to 103.

Puffin

Adult	26-07-1983	Sule Skerry, Orkney, Scotland
Freshly dead	20-06-2010	Scolt Head Island, Brancaster (748km SSE)

Note that the elapsed time between ringing and recovery was almost 27 years, and that the bird was already an adult when ringed.

Barn Owl

Nestling (F)	02-06-1996	near Hilborough
Re-caught	19-08-2010	near Watton (7km E)
Nestling (F)	17-07-2010	Newport, Humberside
Freshly dead	08-10-2010	Harleston (203km SE)

The first shown, a nesting female, was the oldest recovery of the year at over 14 years of age. The second shown represents the longest movement of the year and, like many Barn Owls, it met its end in a collision with a car.

Goldcrest

Full-grown (M)	01-10-2010	Agerso, Skaelskor, Sjaelland, Denmark
Re-caught	10-10-2010	Warren Farm, Waxham (682km WSW)

Only the second from Denmark, but Goldcrests have gone to/come from, 8 different countries, including as far distant as Poland and even Russia.

Bearded Tit

Full-grown (F)	16-10-2010	Iken Marsh, near Iken, Suffolk
Re-caught	13-11-2010	Snettisham Coastal Park (111km NW)

The longest movement of the year, albeit a typical one. This was one of 2 birds caught together at Iken, and then recaught, still together, at Snettisham Coastal Park, typical of the species.

Sand Martin

First-year	09-08-2007	Canal de Tancarville, Tancarville, Seine-Maritime, France
Re-caught	15-06-2008	Easthaugh, Lyng (363km N)
Re-caught	23-06-2009	Easthaugh, Lyng (363km N)
Re-caught	23-07-2010	Beetley, Dereham (361km N)

The only movement either in or out of the county during the year, this represents the 12th to France.

Cetti's Warbler

First-year (F)	31-10-2009	Woolston Eyes, Warrington
Re-caught	06-07-2010	Thornham (213km ESE)
Full-grown	24-04-2010	Holme Bird Observatory
Found dead	01-12-2010	Lindholme, South Yorkshire (119km WNW)

The two longest movements of the year are shown.

Chiffchaff

Full-grown (M)	22-04-2006	near Sheringham
Re-caught	23-05-2007	Hempstead (6km SSW)
Re-caught	12-04-2008	Hempstead (6km SSW)
Re-caught	21-03-2010	Porth Hellick, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly (615km WSW)
First-year	24-04-2010	near Weybourne
Dead	14-12-2010	La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre, Seine-et-Marne, France (467km SSE)
First-year	07-10-2008	Sint Amands, Antwerpen, Belgium
Re-caught	27-09-2010	Warren Farm, Waxham (259km NW)

The first shows a fascinating series of retraps spread over almost four years. Norfolk-ringed birds are very rarely found on the Isles of Scilly. Also shown is the second to France and the third from Belgium.

Blackcap

First-year	16-04-2010	Hamme Sint Anna, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Re-caught	24-04-2010	North Dunes, Winterton (249km NW)

Of 32 foreign-ringed birds to be found in Norfolk, 16 have come from Belgium.

Lesser Whitethroat

First-year (F)	13-03-2009	Horbat Sher, Modiin Hills, Israel
Re-caught	05-05-2010	Thornham, Hunstanton (3,636km NW)

A splendid recovery - the first from Israel and only the second foreign-ringed to be found in Norfolk, the first being from Belgium. Only 4 Norfolk-ringed Lesser Whitethroats have been found abroad, in The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Egypt.

Sedge Warbler

First-year	15-08-2009	Dodro, Coruna, Spain
Re-caught	19-07-2010	Guist, East Dereham (1,330km NNE)

The first Spanish-ringed Sedge Warbler to be found in Norfolk.

Reed Warbler

Juvenile	24-07-2010	Haddiscoe Island, Great Yarmouth
Re-caught	27-08-2010	Hondarribia, Guipuzcoa, Spain (1,054km SSW)
Nestling	26-06-2010	Cranwich, Watermill Broad
Re-caught	21-08-2010	Relegem, Brabant, Belgium (310km SE)

The 8th to Spain and the 10th to Belgium.

Blackbird

First-year (F)	04-10-1997	Thetford
Found dead	12-03-2010	Barnham Cross Common, Thetford (2km)
Adult	02-12-2007	Mill Hill, Brancaster
Re-caught	01-05-2010	Witton-Le-Wear Nature Reserve, Durham (247km NW)
Adult (F)	07-03-2009	Sussex Farm, near Burnham Market
Alive	12-01-2010	Llangybi, Dyfed, Wales (332km WSW)
Nestling	08-06-2009	University of East Anglia, Norwich
Found dead	20-05-2010	Branch End, Stocksfield, Northumberland (329km NW)

The oldest of the year and a selection of the more distant recoveries are shown. Unusually, there were no movements either in or out of the country.

Fieldfare

Adult (Male)	12-01-2010	Thornham
Found Dead	15-07-2010	Flabygd, Nome, Telemark, Norway (880km NE)
First-year (M)	27-09-2008	Lindanget, Orsa, Dalarnas Lan, Kopparberg, Sweden
Re-caught	12-01-2010	Thornham (1,240km SW)

The 8th to Norway and the second from Sweden.

Wheatear

Second-year(F)	16-05-2002	Snettisham Coastal Park
Field record	01-09-2010	Heescheinds Veld, Noord-Brabant, The Netherlands (360km ESE)

Only the second foreign recovery for this species. The previous one was found in Morocco.

Chaffinch

First-year (M)	14-09-2008	Hovden, Hareid, More og Romsdal, Norway
Found dead	15-04-2010	Thetford (1,149km SSW)

The 6th from Norway out of 24 foreign-ringed to be found in Norfolk. The majority came from The Netherlands.

Brambling

Adult (M)	06-02-2009	Beachamwell, Swaffham
Re-caught	26-12-2010	Lyste Buorren Summarreheide, Friesland, The Netherlands (368km E)
First-year (M)	26-09-2010	Bomyra, Randaberg, Rogaland, Norway
Re-caught	10-10-2010	Weybourne (728km SSW)

The first illustrates that Bramblings often winter in widely differing locations in successive years, a habit mainly related to food supply. The second is also typical. Most of our wintering birds originate from Norway, this being the 29th to/from that country.

Greenfinch

First-year (F)	09-12-2004	near Brancaster Hall, near Brancaster
Found dead	27-06-2010	Brancaster: 52°57'N 0°38'E (Norfolk) 2km
Juvenile	04-08-2010	Over Kellet, Carnforth, Lancashire
Found dead	22-10-2010	Boundary Farm, Langley (330km ESE)

Both the oldest and the longest movement of the year are shown. The first was found freshly dead after being hit by a car. The second appears to be a case of juvenile dispersal, albeit a lengthy one.

Siskin

Juvenile	04-07-2009	Thetford
Re-caught	05-07-2009	Brandon, Suffolk (10km WNW)
Predated	03-05-2010	Elphin, Sutherland, Scotland (726km NNW)
Adult (F)	21-12-2007	Masefield Walk, Thetford
Found dead	05-04-2010	Teublitz, Oberpfalz, Germany (871km ESE)
Adult (M)	06-03-2009	Sheringham
Re-caught	09-04-2010	Taaksi, Viljandimaa, Estonia (1,646km ENE)

The first is one of many interchanges between Norfolk and Scotland. Interesting that a juvenile caught at Thetford on 4th July may well have been locally bred, yet was in northern Scotland just under a year later. There were 3 recoveries abroad of Norfolk-ringed birds. Shown are the 9th to Germany and only the second to the Baltic States. There was also a movement to Belgium, the 22nd to that country.

Twite

Nestling	11-06-2010	Chelburn Moor, Greater Manchester
Field sighting	17-10-2010	Titchwell (195km ESE)
Nestling	11-06-2010	Langfield Common, West Yorkshire
Field sighting	20-10-2010	Titchwell (196km ESE)
Nestling	21-06-2010	Britannia Quarries, Lancashire
Field sighting	21-10-2010	Titchwell (202km ESE)
Nestling	28-06-2010	Chelburn Moor, Greater Manchester
Field sighting	28-10-2010	Titchwell (195km ESE)
Nestling	10-07-2010	Britannia Quarries, Lancashire
Field sighting	12-11-2010	Titchwell (202km ESE)
Full grown	Sept 2009	Rishworth Quarry, Halifax, West Yorkshire
Field sighting	11-12-2009	West Bank, Cley (and 14-12-2009)
Field sighting	07-03-2010	Blakeney Point
Full grown	09-08-2009	Whiteholme Reservoir, Littleborough, Lancashire
Field sighting	20-02-2010	Blakeney Point

Those shown illustrate clearly the origin of most of our wintering Twite. Note that most were ringed as nestlings, making the data even more interesting and important.

Lesser Redpoll

First-year (M)	24-09-2008	Ramsley Reservoir, Derbyshire
Re-caught	11-03-2010	Thetford (182km ESE)
First-year	13-09-2009	Easter Inch Moss, Blackburn, Lothian, Scotland
Field sighting	24-01-2010	Feltwell, Thetford (462km SE)
Full-grown (M)	13-10-2009	Filey Brigg Country Park, North Yorkshire
Re-caught	13-03-2010	Thetford (213km SSE)
First-year (F)	23-10-2009	Cauldwell Hall Farm, Hollesley, Suffolk
Re-caught	31-10-2010	near Weybourne (101km NNW)

The migration strategy of the resurgent Lesser Redpoll population in Norfolk seems to be quite different to when the species was previously common. It used to be that the majority of Lesser Redpolls bred in the county and wintered in the Low Countries, there being 35 movements between Norfolk and Belgium alone. Nowadays it seems to be more of a passage migrant and winter visitor.

Redpoll sp. (Common/Lesser)

First-year	21-03-2009	Kelling Village
Re-caught	24-04-2010	Remoy, Heroy, More og Romsdal, Norway (1,082km NNE)

The only movement to or from Scandinavia for any redpoll.

Snow Bunting

Full-grown (M)	18-02-2009	Caister-on-Sea
Found dead	09-06-2010	Burrafirth, Unst, Shetland, Scotland (918km N)

Norfolk Ringing Totals 2010

Mute Swan	78
Whooper Swan	2
Greylag Goose	32
Canada Goose	82
Barnacle Goose	1
Egyptian Goose	14
Gadwall	1
Teal	27
Mallard	47
Pochard	166
Grey Partridge	5
Little Egret	61
Little Grebe	1
Great Crested Grebe	1
Marsh Harrier	30
Montagu's Harrier	2
Sparrowhawk	56
Buzzard	13
Kestrel	209
Peregrine	2
Water Rail	10
Moorhen	42
Coot	31
Oystercatcher	191
Avocet	9
Stone Curlew	112
Ringed Plover	23
Grey Plover	66
Lapwing	208
Knot	85
Sanderling	278
Curlew Sandpiper	9
Purple Sandpiper	1
Dunlin	803
Snipe	16
Woodcock	28
Black-tailed Godwit	14
Bar-tailed Godwit	33
Whimbrel	5
Curlew	28
Common Sandpiper	1
Spotted Redshank	1
Greenshank	1
Redshank	482
Turnstone	33
Black-headed Gull	178
Common Gull	6
Lesser Black-backed Gull	318
Herring Gull	251
Common Tern	132
Stock Dove	158
Woodpigeon	249
Collared Dove	95
Turtle Dove	2
Cuckoo	6
Barn Owl	682
Little Owl	22
Tawny Owl	51
Nightjar	3
Swift	56
Kingfisher	22
Wryneck	1
Green Woodpecker	21
Great Spotted Woodpecker	166
Red-backed Shrike	1
Great Grey Shrike	1
Jay	73
Magpie	14
Jackdaw	210
Rook	6
Goldcrest	1,365
Firecrest	53
Blue Tit	9,771
Great Tit	5,592
Coal Tit	1,280
Willow Tit	4
Marsh Tit	294
Bearded Tit	149
Woodlark	21
Skylark	20
Sand Martin	999
Swallow	1,985
House Martin	183
Long-tailed Tit	2,131
Cetti's Warbler	50
Arctic Warbler	1
Pallas's Warbler	1
Yellow-browed Warbler	5
Hume's Warbler	1
Wood Warbler	1
Chiffchaff	1,035
Willow Warbler	466
Blackcap	1,883
Garden Warbler	170
Barred Warbler	9
Lesser Whitethroat	160
Whitethroat	676
Dartford Warbler	5
Grasshopper Warbler	42
Icterine Warbler	2
Sedge Warbler	838
Reed Warbler	1,424
Waxwing	37
Nuthatch	89
Treecreeper	210
Wren	882
Starling	367
Ring Ouzel	7
Blackbird	3,992
Fieldfare	211
Song Thrush	920
Redwing	536
Mistle Thrush	24
Spotted Flycatcher	42
Robin	3,017
Nightingale	1
Red-flanked Bluetail	1
Black Redstart	1
Redstart	74
Whinchat	2
Stonechat	121
Wheatear	17
Pied Flycatcher	23
Dunnock	1,848
House Sparrow	388
Tree Sparrow	189
Yellow Wagtail	9
Grey Wagtail	3
Pied/White Wagtail	116
Tree Pipit	74
Meadow Pipit	153
Rock Pipit	1
Chaffinch	3,699
Brambling	384
Greenfinch	4,406
Goldfinch	2,904
Siskin	1,687
Linnet	267
Common Redpoll	30
Lesser Redpoll	392
Redpoll (Common/Lesser)	5
Bullfinch	255
Lapland Bunting	21
Snow Bunting	121
Yellowhammer	207
Reed Bunting	450
Grand Total	**64,863**

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NORFOLK MAMMAL REPORT 2010

Editorial

The highlight of my own mammal recording last year was undoubtedly the Otter (*Lutra lutra*) family that took up residence in the Little Ouse, immediately adjacent to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) headquarters in Thetford. I have spent some time watching the species north of the border, but views of even the most obliging Scottish individuals pale in comparison with those afforded to onlookers at The Nunnery. The sight of the mother hauling a fish onto the bank while the four youngsters crawled over her back, competing for the first bite, is something I will never forget. Word spread quickly through the town and over a period of several months the residents of Thetford were treated to a daily performance as the Otters became local celebrities. They're not the only well-watched individuals in the county, either – Mundy Ellis' fantastic website www.southwalshamvillage.org/otter-watch/ documents the observations that she and 40 other observers have made since the spring of 2009.

Given all this activity, it seems incredible that just 25 years ago the species had all but disappeared from the county (Norfolk Wildlife Trust 1995). Were it not for the efforts of the dedicated conservationists who worked to improve habitats, release captive-bred animals and monitor their progress, we would not enjoy such sights today. Sadly, one such individual, Steve Henson, Norfolk's Otter expert, passed away in 2010 and we pay tribute to him in this Report. I know he would have been thrilled to hear the news, released earlier this year, that Otters can once again be found in every English county, having finally returned to Kent.

It is only fitting that this year's Report bears a photograph of one of the Thetford Otters on its back cover and that the first article, written by Chris Gregory, summarises their history and the recent activity at this site. Richard Porter and Edward Stubbings follow this with their finders' account of a White-beaked Dolphin on Blakeney Point, another notable cetacean record hot on the heels (or whatever the marine mammal equivalent is) of the beached Sowerby's Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon bidens*) that they found at the same site in 2009. Moving inland, if you've ever wondered which species visit your garden during the night, or your local patch during the day, Francis Farrow's article on trail cameras will inspire you to embrace new technology and find out. Garden monitoring is also the focus of Mike Toms' piece, which illustrates just how valuable the mammal records collected by the BTO's Garden BirdWatch participants can be to the UK conservation effort. Finally, Dave and Tony Leech summarise the presentations given at another very enjoyable Norfolk Bat Workers' Meeting, held at Thetford in February 2011.

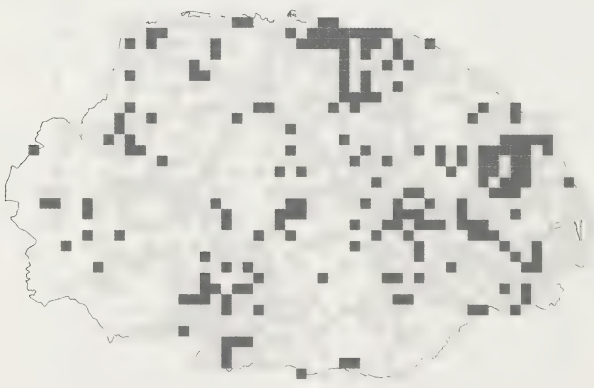

Figure 1. *Distribution of mammal records in 2010. Grey squares represent tetrads from which 1-9 records were submitted, black squares represent tetrads from which 10 or more records were submitted.*

The report finishes with the traditional taxonomic list, a summary of the mammal reports received during another very busy recording year. Data from two national surveys, the BTO Garden BirdWatch (www.bto.org/gbw) and the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (www.bto.org/bbs) were included in the 8,900 records submitted from observers across the county in 2010 (Figure 1), and I am very grateful to everybody who sent information to me. Every observation counts, but I would like to make special mention of all the recorders who collected more than 200 records apiece, in order of submission totals: Pam Taylor, Phil Heath, Stephen Howell, Elizabeth George and Joan & Vince Matthews.

It is easy to underestimate the value of submitting records, whatever the taxon, to the county recorder, but without the efforts of volunteer such as yourselves, there would be no conservation monitoring in the UK. A casual sighting of a Chinese Water Deer or Brown Hare in a field may not be much use in isolation, but if the information from all the county's naturalists was gathered together in one place, it would be a truly amazing resource. So, thanks once again for your efforts so far – enjoy your recording over the coming year and I look forward to including your observations in the next report!

Dave Leech, Norfolk Mammal Recorder

Acknowledgements

A big thank you to everyone who had taken the time to record and submit their data. I'm also very grateful to all authors and photographers and to those who helped in the production of this report: Kate Risely, Tony Leech, Mike Toms, John Crouch, Dave Powell, Martin Horlock, David North, Gemma Walker and Scott Perkin.

Useful links

- Norfolk Mammal Identification Guide: www.nnns.org.uk/content/species-guides
- Norwich Bat Group: www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk
- Norfolk Bat Group: www.norfolk-bat-group.org.uk
- Norfolk Badger Group: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/norfolkbadgers
- Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service: www.nbis.org.uk
- Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership: www.norfolkbiodiversity.org
- Seawatch Foundation: www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk
- National Whale Stranding Reporting Scheme: www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/mammals/science-whalestrandings/index.html
- Mammal Society: www.mammal.org.uk
- People's Trust for Endangered Species: www.ptes.org

Submitting your records

The Norfolk Mammal Recorder is interested in receiving records of any species, no matter how common they might be. It is important to map the distribution of scarce mammals, but regular counts of species such as Grey Squirrel and Rabbit are also vital if we are to monitor their population trends. Records of all mammals should be sent to the County Mammal Recorder: Dave Leech, c/o BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU (dave.leech@bto.org). If you can, please use the Mammal Recording Form, which can be downloaded from the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society website at www.nnns.org.uk/content/what-recording or requested from the County Recorder, as this reduces the time spent inputting data.

The most important pieces of information to include in any mammal record are:

- Species name
- Site name
- Grid reference – if you don't have access to the relevant map, try using the Ordnance Survey

Get-a-Map website (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getamap)
- Date
- Number of individuals
- Type of record, *e.g.* sighting, found dead, killed by cat, traffic casualty, field sign. This is particularly important for bats – please note if you've used a bat detector, including the type where possible.
- Observer contact details

Any records from 2011 submitted by the end of January 2012 will be included in next year's report. Records received after this date are still valuable, as are submissions of historical data, and all will be added to the Norfolk Mammal Database. The database is exchanged annually with the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS, www.nbis.org.uk) to ensure that the information collected feeds supports conservation efforts at a national scale. Please feel free to contact the County Mammal Recorder with any queries about mammals or how to record them. We're also keen to receive any articles for future reports, so if you think you could write a piece for us in future, please let us know.

Systematic list information

The systematic list follows the classification used by Harris & Yalden (2008) and includes a summary of the information held on the Norfolk Mammal Database, both for 2009 and for the database as a whole. Two sets of figures are shown after the vernacular and systematic names. The first set shows the number of records submitted in 2009, with the total number of records held in the database displayed in brackets. The second set indicates the number of tetrads (two by two kilometre squares) in which the species was recorded in 2010, followed in brackets by the total number of tetrads in the database as a whole in which the species has been recorded. Thus, 1,535 records of Grey Squirrel were received in 2010 and a total of 5,360 records of this species are held in the database (including those from 2010). Similarly, Grey Squirrels were recorded in 240 tetrads in 2010 and have been recorded in 783 tetrads in total. Please note that re-examination of historical records, in particular their grid reference details, has resulted in the removal of some records from the Norfolk component of the database, specifically those with grid references that show the observations to come from outside the Watsonian Vice Counties of East Norfolk and West Norfolk. A number of records from 2009 that were not received in time for inclusion in the previous report have been added to the totals presented here.

References

Harris, S. & Yalden, D.W. (2008). *Mammals of the British Isles: Handbook, 4th Edition.* The Mammal Society, London.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust (1995). *Otters in Norfolk and Suffolk: a review of distribution data.* Report to the Environment Agency, Ipswich.

Tribute to Steve Henson

Tony Leech

Steve Henson collapsed and died from a pulmonary embolism in August 2010 while on a visit to a Norfolk Wildlife Trust site at Hilgay, West Norfolk where he was project manager. His death at 53 was totally unexpected and a great shock to the many who knew him.

After leaving school, Steve worked at Boots in Nottingham as a quality control chemist but he had always had a passion for wildlife and at the age of 33 made a career change to study at the University of East Anglia and obtain the qualifications needed to become a conservation professional. He remained in Norfolk to join the Norfolk Wildlife Trust as a conservation officer, specialising in rivers and wetlands, and quickly became an expert on the three wetland mammals of conservation concern: Otter, Northern Water Vole and American Mink. Steve organised a series of county-wide surveys which were contributed to by a large number of landowners and naturalists. His meticulous approach to all he did is exemplified by the well-organised files, each neatly annotated, which he left behind.

Steve Henson was by no means an 'office man'. He was an excellent naturalist and always became fully involved in any project he was associated with. One such project was the restoration of stretches of the River Glaven, near Holt, where Steve's working knowledge facilitated everything from the initial biodiversity surveys to the thigh-deep task of inserting barriers to narrow the river. It was through his contacts that the River Glaven Conservation Group were able to reinstate conservation grazing on the meadows alongside the river at Little Thornage.

Steve Henson joined the editorial team for the production of the *Mammals of Norfolk*, to be published by the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society. Again his thorough approach was invaluable, particularly in building up a bibliography of papers on Norfolk mammals. In 2009 he was elected to the Council of the Society but, sadly, was not able to compete his three year term of office.

It is very pleasing that, before his untimely death, Steve was able to document the return of the Otter to Norfolk rivers where, in many cases, as he noted, their population has probably not been higher in historical times.

The Thetford Otters

Chris Gregory, Reserve Manager, British Trust for Ornithology

Background

Growing concerns about the gradual decline of the Otter *(Lutra lutra)* in rivers across England in the 1960s and 1970s prompted plans to supplement the dwindling wild population with released captive-bred individuals. In the Anglian region, a joint scheme involving the Otter Trust and the Nature Conservancy Council co-ordinated the release of 81 individuals between 1983 and 1998, and a further 16 between 1994 and 1995. Of these, six were released onto two rivers in the Thetford area. In July 1983, a male and two females were released on the river Blackbourne, and the following July another male and two females were released on the River Thet. In the intervening years, the local population has risen steadily and the results of the Fifth National Otter Survey of England (2009-10) indicated that the number of sites in the Anglian region showing signs of occupancy has increased by 100% since the previous survey (2000-02) (Crawford 2010).

Otters on the Nunnery Lakes Nature Reserve

The Nunnery Lakes Nature Reserve, which lies to the south of Thetford along the Ouse valley, is owned and managed by the British Trust for Ornithology. It comprises a wide range of wetland habitats including a 2.5km section of the river Little Ouse, along part of which a series of meanders were reinstated in 1994. There are also several flooded gravel pits which are managed as a fishery.

The first documented evidence of the presence of Otters on the Reserve was in 1992, when a female was seen on one of the lakes. There was no further sign until 1996, when half-eaten eels were found and an individual was witnessed hunting along the river and in the lakes. During 1997, there was further evidence that Otters were still regularly using the site but it was not until the following year that the first confirmed breeding occurred. Further breeding has taken place on eight occasions between 1999 and 2010. Evidence suggests that mating typically takes place in late summer, as the majority of the family groups first appear towards the end of the year.

Events of 2010

In mid-January a very young cub, about 8-9 weeks old, was heard calling from dense bank-side vegetation along the Little Ouse. The cub had not been fully weaned and was far too young to fend for itself, so the area was watched from a safe distance to see if the mother would return to collect it. Eventually, towards dusk, two female Otters were seen approaching the area and, after exchanging calls, all were reunited. A few weeks later, two adult females and two cubs were seen feeding together on a freshly killed fish, evidence which strongly suggests that the two females (perhaps siblings?) were raising their young together.

Several months later, in October, another family group was discovered on the Little Ouse, just outside Thetford. A mother and four cubs took up residence in a dense patch of tall vegetation on the riverbank and remained close to the natal area for five or six weeks. The 'couch' was just 25 metres from a pedestrian bridge but the proximity of human activity did not seem to bother them and the family were often active during daylight hours. Their loud whistling and boisterous activity ultimately attracted the attention of an increasing number of curious passers-by and many people were treated to unusually close views of the animals as they played and hunted in the river, sometimes even under the bridge where people were standing! As time went on, the family ranged further up and down the river, even using the riverside paths to feed and travel along. As the cubs grew older they became more independent but continued to be unusually confiding. In recent months one has been seen regularly hunting in the river in the centre of Thetford in broad daylight!

The unusually high tolerance of these animals provided an extraordinary insight into their private life and an opportunity to learn more about the behaviour of this normally secretive species. It was

interesting to hear the wide array of contact calls they use, ranging from the usual whistle calls to the cat-like noises often emitted by the cubs during scraps over food. Regular observation and spraint analysis revealed a lot about their feeding behaviour. The Otters were taking a wide variety of prey; as well as fish scales, many spraints contained feathers, mostly of moorhen. They were also seen feeding on the carcasses of a Mute Swan *(Cygnus olor),* a Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* and a Pheasant *(Phasianus colchicus),* but it is most likely that they came across the corpses whilst hunting. However, one Otter was seen taking a sick Black-headed gull *(Larus ribindus)* on one of the lakes by swimming underwater and grabbing it from below.

Clearly Otters are becoming more comfortable around humans and less nocturnal in their behaviour. There are more and more reports of Otters being seen in towns and even raiding garden ponds, so perhaps they are following in the footsteps of the urban foxes? Historically, Thetford Otters have been unusually approachable and a significant proportion of the observations at the Nunnery Lakes have involved diurnal sightings.

There is much controversy about the potential damage Otters can cause to fisheries. At the Nunnery Lakes, problems came to a head in the mid-1990s when they predated several specimen carp (*Cyprinidae* sp.). To ameliorate the situation, a decision was made to fence-off the two specialist carp lakes, a measure which has proven to be very effective, but problems still occasionally arise on the unprotected lakes in winter when the fish are at their most vulnerable and when more than one Otter is present. Other measures, such as displacement feeding in winter, are being considered to help offset the level of predation and it is hoped that this will prove a cost-effective way of reducing the amount of large fish taken by Otters at this time of the year.

References

Crawford, A. (2010). *Fifth Otter Survey of England: Technical Report*. Environment Agency, Bristol.

White-beaked Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* on Blakeney Point

Richard Porter & Edward Stubbings

On 23 October 2010 during a force seven gale with lashing rain, RP found a freshly dead cetacean on the end of Blakeney Point, close to the seal colony at TF990459. Uncertain of its specific identity, he phoned ES who was at the lifeboat house and discussed its key features. The conclusion was reached that it was an adult Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). RP took photographs (see mammal plates in this report) and ES came and made a series of measurements and established it was a female.

The dolphin had a blood-spattered face as a result of an eye being removed and a gash in the side of its jaw. These injuries were thought to have been caused by scavenging gulls after it had washed ashore. The animal had not been present the previous day. As it was a large individual and was stranded near the top of the beach, some distance from the sea, it seemed as though the corpse would remain there permanently. However the following day it had gone, clearly washed out to sea on a very high tide. It was later found washed up on Stiffkey Salt Marsh next to Freshes Creek TF996448 by Graham Lubbock on 6 January 2011.

The photographs, dental count and measurements were sent to Liz Duffell, National Whale Stranding Recording Scheme Coordinator at The Natural History Museum, London, who identified it as a White-beaked Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*). Why hadn't we considered the white beak when we examined the animal! If it had been a large diver (*Gavia sp*).....!

Measurements

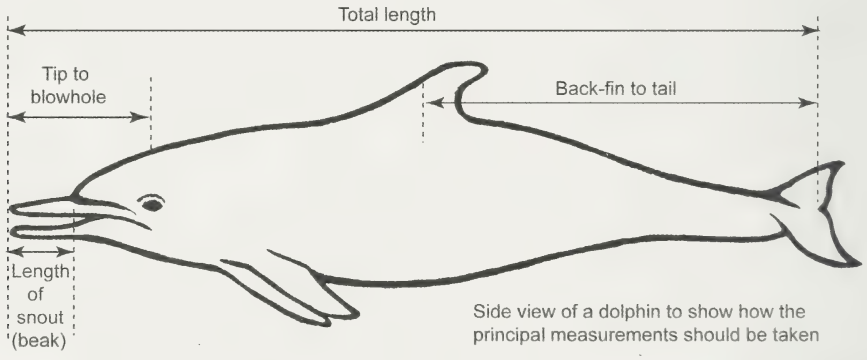
Total length
Tip to blowhole
Back-fin to tail
Length of snout (beak)
Side view of a dolphin to show how the principal measurements should be taken

Figure 1. *Principal measurements for dolphin identification. Reproduced courtesy of The Natural History Museum, London.*

Total length: 2.67m
Back-fin to tail: 1.52m
Length of snout (beak): 0.06m
Length to blowhole: 0.32m
Length of flipper: 0.46m
Vertical height of back fin: 0.32m

Dental count (all teeth conical-shaped)
One side of upper jaw: 20 teeth and 2 empty sockets
One side of lower jaw: 23 teeth and no empty sockets

Identification

The White-beaked Dolphin is a rather large, robust dolphin with a short, white 'beak' and very tall curved (falcate) dorsal fin. Unlike many of the illustrations in reference books (e.g. Carwardine 1995), the upper parts and flanks of the Blakeney Point animal were entirely dark grey with not a hint of a white streak on the sides, giving a rather plain or featureless impression. However, we were informed that this taxon is highly variable in terms of its body markings, which appear to be affected by age and geography. Thus, finding an animal that was entirely grey on its upperparts was probably not that unusual.

It is clear that the overriding identification feature is the white top to the beak, which is shown by no other cetacean. The dorsal fin, though larger, taller and more falcate than Bottle-nosed Dolphin, can be variable and at best could only support the identification. Many other features are shared by other dolphin species, notably the lower jaw being slightly longer than the upper, with 20-25 needle-shaped teeth in each, the overall length of 2-3m and the body shape.

Historical records

This is the second record of White-beaked Dolphin from Blakeney Point, the first having also been found dead on the strandline in March 1968 by Michael Seago. The Norfolk Mammal Database lists at least 24 records for this species to date, making it the most commonly recorded of the four dolphin species that have been observed along the Norfolk coast. Bottlenose Dolphin is the second mostly frequently recorded, with eight records to date, although several of these are second-hand reports and there is little information to confirm identification in the majority of cases.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Liz Duffell for her helpful discussions on identification.

References

Carwardine, M. (1995). *Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises.* Dorling Kindersley, London.

Trail cameras - a definite advantage for mammal recording

Francis J.L. Farrow

Over the last decade or more, the advance in digital technology has been quite phenomenal and in the field of natural history this revolution has had a tremendous impact, particularly with lesser known groups of the insect world where digital images can be taken and shared on-line within a very short space of time. Larger species such as mammals are often elusive and generally more active at night. However, through the advent of trail cameras, the mammal recorder can get to bed early and leave the technology to do the work.

A basic trail camera is a remote camera that has a PIR (Passive InfraRed) sensor, which senses motion and infrared energy (heat) to assure detection of live animals. In addition, the cameras are fitted with an infrared flash, which is generally a group of infrared LEDs that emits a burst of invisible (to the mammalian eye) light when triggered. This is especially useful at night when a visible flash would be a definite disadvantage. The cameras were, I believe, developed for hunters to monitor game numbers and activity in an area (the model I use is called the 'ProStalk Digital Scouting Camera'). In recent years these cameras have become very useful tools for conservationists and naturalists and their importance was shown particularly well by a BBC TV team, who 'captured' Tigers living at a higher level in the Himalayas than previously known.

This ability to record remotely prompted me to buy the trail camera and set it up on my local patch, Beeston Regis Common, near Sheringham. During part of February, March and April 2011, I placed the camera in various locations around the Common. Each location was observed continuously for four or five days. A few shelled peanuts were scattered within the area as bait. The camera has various settings for still or video recording and I initially selected still image recording using burst mode (i.e. three continuous images at each trigger). Between each trigger I also set a rest time of 15 minutes before the camera could function again. My first location 'captured' Fox, Reeves' Muntjac (male and female) and Brown Rat, which gave me encouragement to seek out other locations. One of the better areas proved to be within a reedbed set just back from a trail and the camera recorded up to two Roe Deer and Reeves' Muntjac using the area. Sample diurnal and nocturnal images can be found on the mammal plates in this report.

The cameras cost £180-£200, so using a public open space does mean that you have to try and locate the camera away from humans, in case of theft or vandalism. A site in deep cover near a trail or small open space is generally good, with the camera fixed to a firm support (e.g. tree) by its strap, 1.2m to 1.5m above the ground. The camera should point at slight downward angle and should not face the rising or setting of the sun, as false triggers and overexposed images could result. Any branches that may block the camera or PIR sensor should also be trimmed back. There is about a 15m range for the PIR sensor and IR Flash. The camera works off four D-cell batteries, which will last for around 30 days in continuous mode. Longer term studies could utilise a set of re-chargeable batteries and a solar panel or a 6V lead acid battery. The images are stored as JPEGs on an SD card that can be at a set resolution - 0.35MP, 1.3MP or 3.1MP (some trail cameras have higher resolutions, such as 5MP). Date, time and moon phase (added information for hunters) is imprinted on each image. In addition, a 16-character user information field can be added to imprint details such as the location and grid reference. The unit comes with a completely water resistant case, which is double-latched and lockable and can be safely left out in all weathers.

I hope this introduction to trail cameras has inspired others to monitor their patch. I shall continue to survey areas of the Common with the hope of turning up a roaming Otter or Badger – or even an elusive Norfolk Puma!

Monitoring Norfolk's garden mammals through 'Citizen Science': the BTO Garden BirdWatch

Mike Toms, Head of Garden Ecology, BTO,
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www.bto.org/gbw

There has been a notable increase in the rate of urban development over recent decades, as a growing population and changes in social structure have brought with them increased quantities of housing and its associated services. In 2000, some 7% of the UK land area was occupied by towns and cities and this figure is set to rise over coming decades. The process of urbanisation brings about an inevitable loss of semi-natural habitats and is likely to have major consequences for biodiversity. It is important, therefore, that we should understand the nature of the animal and plant communities present within urbanised landscapes and, more widely, understand how the process of urbanisation impacts on communities at a wider spatial scale.

It is worth noting that urbanised areas actually support important breeding populations of a variety of species, including, for example, several declining amphibians and a number of birds of conservation concern (*e.g.* House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*). Urbanised landscapes contain different types of green space, including remnant woodland, public parks, urban brownfield sites and private gardens. Of these, it is private gardens that are the main contributors to urban biodiversity. The scale of this contribution comes, in part, from the significant area that gardens occupy nationally – added together gardens occupy an area roughly the size of Suffolk – and the diversity of micro-habitats that they contain. Even in a largely rural county like Norfolk, gardens are likely to play an important role in the maintenance of biodiversity at a wider scale. At certain times of the year, for example, rural gardens may be particularly valuable for birds and nectaring insects struggling to find feeding opportunities within a predominantly farmland landscape (Siriwardena *et al.* 2008, Burghardt *et al.* 2009).

The value of gardens for mammals is, however, less clear. Mammals tend to favour natural and semi-natural habitats, are often wary of people and many require large tracts of suitable habitat if they are to maintain viable populations. For many mammal species, therefore, the use of gardens may be incidental. We do not have any real measures of the abundance of mammals within the built environment and even our understanding of their populations within the wider countryside is surprisingly incomplete (especially when compared with birds). Increasing our understanding of the ways in which mammals use the built environment, and identifying the nature of urban mammal communities, should be a priority if we are to attempt to model the impact of urbanisation on mammal populations more widely.

The willingness of volunteers to record simple presence/absence and count information on garden mammals may be a first step towards systematic monitoring and more targeted research into our urban mammal communities. In this paper I examine the contribution that one particular 'Citizen Science' scheme, the BTO Garden BirdWatch, might make to the study of garden mammals, using examples drawn from participating gardens within Norfolk.

Monitoring garden mammals through the BTO Garden BirdWatch

The BTO Garden BirdWatch (GBW) is a self-funded, mass participation survey with some 15,000 participants collecting systematic weekly data on garden usage by a range of bird, mammal, amphibian, reptile, butterfly, bumblebee and dragonfly species. Information collected through this scheme has been used to:

i) explore patterns in the seasonal use of garden habitats by these species;

ii) determine the role of garden-based resources in a wider landscape context;
iii) identify long-term trends in garden use that may reflect wider population level changes.

Although GBW started in 1995, the option to record garden mammals was not introduced until 2003, following a successful pilot study on the willingness of volunteers to record mammals and the degree to which they could reliably identify different species. Each week, participants are asked to record either the presence/absence of a species or provide a count of the maximum number of individuals of that species seen at any one time during the defined recording period (this provides a relative measure of abundance). Observers are instructed to be consistent in their recording effort from one week to the next but there is a degree of variability in the amount of effort contributed by different volunteers, something that is controlled for during statistical analyses of the dataset. What is important is that individual observers are consistent in their approach over time.

Participants can either submit their observations on paper recording forms provided (quarterly or annually) or via a series of web pages (weekly, www.bto.org/gbw), the latter accessed through a personal log-in and additionally allowing the observer to access records from previous weeks or years (even if these had originally been submitted on paper). Currently, some 54% of participants choose to submit their records through the online system. The paper-based system only allows the recording of presence/absence for mammals and the Norfolk data presented here are derived solely from the web submissions, where observers typically record the maximum number of individuals seen. Online mammal recording was only fully integrated in 2007, so the dataset presented covers the period 2007-2010; even so, this still represents some 17,755 records derived from 155 Norfolk gardens (Figure 1).

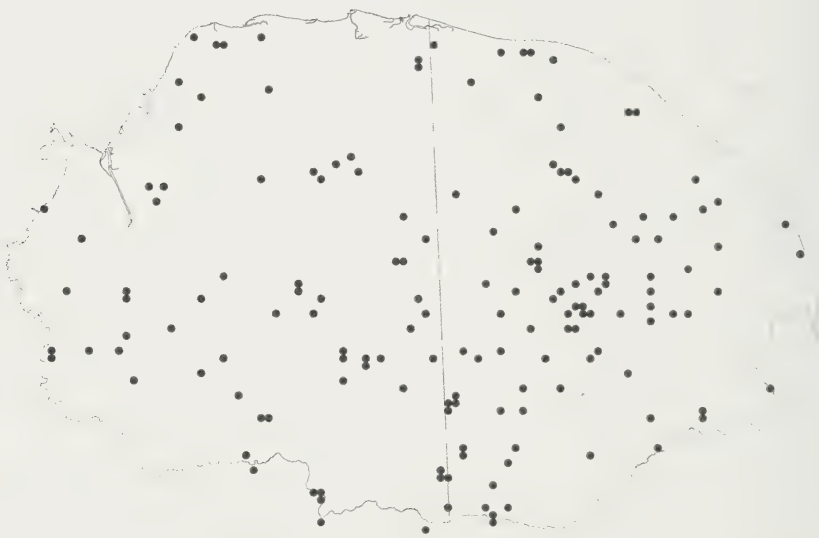

Figure 1. *Map showing the locations, at the 1-km square level, of gardens from which mammal records were received through the BTO Garden BirdWatch, 2007-2010. There may be more than one participating garden within an individual 1-km square.*

Norfolk's garden mammals

Some 22 different mammal species were recorded from the 155 Norfolk gardens during the period 2007-2010 (Table 1), with records for a further three grouped categories (unidentified shrew, unidentified bat and *Pipistrelle* spp.) also collected. In addition, records are also made of domestic cats and dogs seen using the garden during the recording period. Cats are known to take a significant number of small mammal, amphibian and bird prey each year and their inclusion in the GBW dataset

opens up the opportunity to test for interactions between these predators and garden populations of their potential prey (Sims *et al.* 2008). In addition to the core monitoring aims outlined already, records can be used to identify potential bat roosts for follow-up survey (two sites have regular and substantial counts of *Pipistrellus* spp. which might indicate Soprano Pipistrelle roosts within the property), to fill gaps in distribution maps (data are sent to the Norfolk Mammal Recorder) and to support other scientific research.

Table 1. *Mammal species recorded from Norfolk gardens through the BTO Garden BirdWatch during the period 2007-2010.*

Species	***Number of records received***	***Proportion of sites from which species recorded***
Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*	2	1.3%
Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*	3,534	74.2%
Bank Vole *Myodes glareolus*	394	16.1%
Field Vole *Microtus agrestis*	80	2.1%
Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*	589	38.7%
Yellow-necked Mouse *Apodemus flavicollis*	36	<1%
House Mouse *Mus domesticus*	175	10.9%
Common Rat *Rattus norvegicus*	809	38.1%
Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*	956	34.2%
Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*	38	7.1%
Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*	1,637	60.6%
Mole *Talpa euopaea*	1,279	27.7%
Common Shrew *Sorex araneus*	809	13.5%
Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus*	17	3.9%
Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*	10	3.2%
Fox *Vulpes vulpes*	158	16.1%
Otter *Lutra lutra*	13	1.9%
Stoat *Mustela erminea*	45	7.1%
Weasel *Mustela nivalis*	19	7.7%
American Mink *Mustela vison*	2	1.2%
Reeves' Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi*	431	18.1%
Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*	24	2.6%
Domestic Cat	5,429	78.1%
Domestic Dog	1,243	33.5%
Unidentified bat	495	39.2%
Pipistrellus spp.	233	20.6%
Unidentified shrew	37	9.7%

The question of correct identification is important, particularly where the observations are to be used more widely beyond the core aims of Garden BirdWatch. Inevitably, it is with the less common and less familiar species that identification is likely to be an issue but, with the sample sizes for rare species always going to be small, it is very unlikely that these records would be used for the core monitoring work that GBW underpins. Although participants are alerted when they attempt to enter any unusual records (*e.g.* a rare species, an unusually high count or an out of season record) it is possible that an observer may incorrectly record the presence of a particular species, perhaps by entering the value in the wrong box on screen or because they have made an error in their identification. Additional validation of the mammal records by local recorders has yet to be implemented but a system for doing this interactively is currently being developed; the ultimate aim is for a system where county recorders can log in to the GBW database, validate records and then download material for their area.

While many mammal species are readily identifiable, there are some groups that remain difficult. These include the bats, hence the use of 'unidentified bat' as a category, and the small mammals.

Particular difficulties may relate to Wood Mouse/Yellow-necked Mouse/House Mouse and to Common Shrew/Pygmy Shrew pairings and the records for the less commonly encountered species require more detailed examination. The Norfolk Yellow-necked Mouse records, for example, all come from a single site in the east of the county some distance from previous confirmed records. Examination of the site through Google Earth suggests that it is likely to be unsuitable for Yellow-necked Mouse habitat-wise, so the submission of these records clearly requires follow-up validation. The widespread nature of gardens from which records have been made of House Mouse, and indeed the quantity of sites from which the species was recorded, is a little surprising and again suggests that some of these observations are a case of mistaken identity. There is still a widely held notion that any mouse coming into a shed or outbuilding must be a House Mouse despite the fact that it more likely to be a Wood Mouse. Other unusual garden records, for example those of Red Squirrel, Otter and American Mink, also require further investigation. While the Norfolk records of Otter and American Mink all come from gardens on or close to waterways in the Broads, the two sites from which records of Red Squirrel were received, are located well away from the last known population in Thetford Forest (one is at Surlingham, the other at Stanhoe). Given that captive breeding of Red Squirrels is known to take place within the county, and that there have been suggestions of escapes or illegal releases in recent years, these two records are worthy of further enquiry and may not be the incorrect submissions that they at first appear.

It is for the more familiar, widespread and readily identifiable species that the weekly monitoring of GBW makes its most significant contribution. Examination of changes in garden use over time can highlight both seasonal patterns of garden use (see Figure 2) and long-term changes in abundance that may be linked to changes in the size of wider populations. This approach has already revealed the seasonal importance of gardens for various bird species (Cannon *et al.* 2005, Mackenzie *et al.* 2007) and also identified population level changes following the arrival of the *Trichomonas* parasite in Greenfinches *Carduelis chloris* (Robinson *et al.* 2010).

At its simplest level, the GBW data can be used to calculate a measure of relative occurrence, known as a 'reporting rate'. This is simply the number of sites at which the species was recorded, divided by the number of gardens at which recording took place during the period of interest. As GBW operates on a weekly basis, it is possible to derive weekly reporting rates that show the change in garden use over time. Figure 2 shows the mean seasonal pattern of garden use for two species, Hedgehog and Grey Squirrel (plus the average weekly number of submissions from Norfolk gardens over the same period). While Grey Squirrel is reported from roughly one in five gardens in any given week, there is a noticeable increase in the rate during the last quarter of the year, possibly when younger animals move in to gardens to take advantage of the food put out for birds. The pattern for Hedgehog, on the other hand, shows a pronounced seasonal cycle as individuals emerge from hibernation during late March and early April, to reach a mid-year peak of *c.*15% of gardens occupied, before entering hibernation again with the approach of winter. Comparison of the seasonal pattern for Hedgehog across years could be used, for example, to examine the effects of a changing global climate on the hibernation behaviour of this species. Hedgehog is a species for which gardens, particularly rural ones, may be important, offering foraging opportunities lacking in the predominantly arable landscape of the county.

Monitoring long-term change through Garden BirdWatch

A number of mammal species are found across a sufficient proportion of GBW sites to allow robust long-term monitoring. Detailed exploration of the pilot year mammal data (Toms & Newson 2006), which used power analyses to examine the value of GBW data in this context, revealed that the survey could be used to pick up population declines of 15% or less for seven key mammal species nationally: Hedgehog, Mole, Rabbit, Grey Squirrel, Wood Mouse, Common Rat and Fox. The power to detect such changes is dependent on both the total number of gardens from which records are received, together with the proportion of sites occupied by a species. The fewer sites a species occupies then the more sites you will need involved in the monitoring in order to detect population

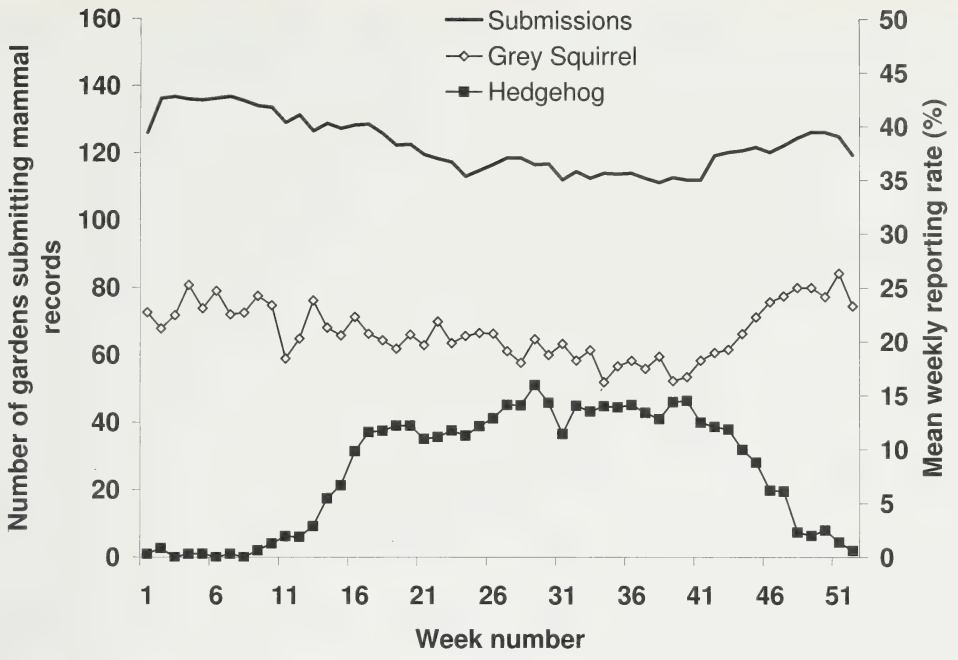

Figure 2. *Mean weekly number of BTO Garden BirdWatch gardens in Norfolk from which mammal records received (2007-2010), together with mean weekly reporting rate for Grey Squirrel (white diamonds) and Hedgehog (black squares) for the same period and region.*

change over a defined period. This also means that your power to detect a population decline will itself fall as you break the dataset up into to smaller pieces, *i.e.* when you want to look at regional or county-level changes. While we do not have a sufficient number of gardens contributing from Norfolk (yet) it is still possible to detect population declines at the level of the East of England Government Office Region, something that has value in helping to support conservation policy and decisions (Table 2). It can be seen from this table that monitoring of species such as Hedgehog, Mole and Grey Squirrel is already achievable at the regional level, and any increase in participation rates can only refine the level of change that can be detected.

Table 2. *Percentage decline in presence detectable at a national and regional level with a power of 80% or more assuming an 'unmatched' survey design.*

Species	*National*	*East of England*
Hedgehog	10	15
Mole	15	25
Common Shrew	20	35
Rabbit	15	30
Grey Squirrel	5	10
Bank Vole	25	45
Field Vole	20	45
Wood Mouse	10	25
Fox	10	25
Reeves' Muntjac	30	35

The future for Garden BirdWatch mammal recording in Norfolk

Gardens are important in their own right, contributing as much as a quarter of the land cover within our towns and cities. How they are used by mammals, and in what way, are important questions, particularly when set against the background of urban expansion and increasing demands for land and resources within our small island. We also need to increase our understanding of the role that gardens play at wider spatial scales; to what extent are they used by species whose populations are centered on woodland or farmland? Do they provide important feeding opportunities (Hedgehog and Fox) or roosting options (Soprano Pipistrelle) for species struggling in other habitats? Alternatively, do gardens contain hazards detrimental to the animals that use them (think of the impact of cats on small mammals) and to what extent are garden mammal populations isolated from those outside?

It is exactly these sorts of questions that a survey like Garden BirdWatch can be used to tackle. By using a robust, systematic 'Citizen Science' approach, it is possible to collect information on when, how and why gardens are used. Gardens are a difficult habitat to monitor through traditional approaches because they are small in size and remain within private ownership. Garden BirdWatch provides a gateway into gardens by engaging with the owners and getting them involved in recording the species present. As more people become engaged with their garden wildlife through the project, we are likely to learn more about Norfolk's mammals and the role that gardens play in their ecology.

More information on the project is available from www.bto.org/gbw. The BTO Garden BirdWatch is funded by its participants, whose generosity has opened up the opportunity to study gardens and their wildlife in a new way. Thank you to all who have supported us over the years.

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Second Norfolk Bat Workers' meeting, 19th February 2011

Dave & Tony Leech

Following the very successful inaugural Norfolk Bat Workers' meeting in March 2010, it was an easy decision to hold a repeat event in 2011 with the aim of updating delegates on the ongoing projects in the county and raising awareness of new and upcoming studies. The venue, once again, was provided by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO, www.bto.org) at their headquarters in Thetford, and as in 2010, the event was organised and supported by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership (NBP, www.norfolkbiodiversity.org), the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS, www.nbis.org.uk) and the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society (N&NNS, www.nnns.org.uk). Attendance was again gratifyingly high, with 70 bat workers gathering to listen to a diverse programme of talks and discuss future monitoring plans. While the focus of the meeting was primarily on bats in Norfolk, neighbouring counties were also well represented, a welcome development – it is fantastic to know that bat workers display the same disregard for county boundaries as the bats themselves.

Bats in Norfolk's churches

Phil Parker started proceedings with a presentation about the survey work that he has been undertaking in the county's churches. The Bat Conservation Trust's (BCT's) Bats in Churches project estimated that at least 60% of medieval churches across the UK are used by roosting bats, the extent of this usage dependent on the condition and architecture of the building. Work undertaken through the Church Buildings Council and on behalf of architects seeking to minimise the impacts of essential maintenance activities has provided the opportunity to collect data at 50 Norfolk churches, of which 22 have been surveyed in detail. The parishioners themselves have assisted with survey work and 26 volunteers have participated thus far. The results have underlined the importance of churches to bats in the county, with 77% containing Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) roosts and Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattererii*) roosts recorded at 59%. The highest count of adult Natterer's numbered 232 individuals, recorded in June 2010 at Holme Hale church. Roosts of this size can cause considerable damage to the interior of these historic buildings and in severe cases mitigation measures may be necessary. Various techniques can be employed to encourage the bats to move to other locations, either within the main structure (e.g. towers, roof voids) or externally (e.g. specially built boxes, lych gates). On the back of survey work undertaken to date, two research projects have commenced in Norfolk, one on Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and one on Natterer's Bat. These will run for the next three years and the researchers will be looking for volunteers to assist with radio tracking and other fieldwork over this period – contact Phil at philipparkerassociates@btconnect.com.

Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group update

The second talk by Ash Murray was a follow up to the presentation he gave the previous year, updating delegates on the progress made by the Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group. The group was established to gain a greater understanding of the species' distribution in the county, to locate maternity roosts and to determine foraging routes. This year's presentation focused mainly on the radio-tracking element of the project, which has been undertaken at three study sites, one in north-west Norfolk and two in north Norfolk. Two females were caught and tagged at Ken Hill Woods in May 2010 and tracked back to separate parts of the site. It quickly became clear just how mobile the bats were, utilising a total of seven roost sites between them over a two week period, for an average of three days each. All roosts were in oaks between 60 and 140 years old but the height was variable, ranging from 1.5m to 13m above the ground. The largest number of individuals observed emerging from a single roost was 24, and coordinated counts were planned for 2011 to give a clearer idea of

numbers across the site. The maximum foraging range recorded was 4km, but there was a marked difference in the habitat over which the two individuals were feeding. One favoured coastal grazing marsh and lagoons, switching to woodland adjacent to the roost site in wet, windy weather, whereas the other remained in a sheltered area of inland reedbed each night. Delegates from Suffolk informed the meeting that tracking work had also been undertaken south of the border and that comparison of results, which appeared to be similar, would be very valuable.

Spatial dynamics of the Serotine in England

An important aim of the meeting is to encourage bat workers in Norfolk to contribute to national projects. Dr James Aegerter from the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) provided just such an opportunity when he presented the preliminary results from the first year of a PhD project on Serotines (*Eptesicus serotinus*) at the University of Exeter, which he is co-supervising, funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Serotine is widespread in continental Europe where it is the main reservoir for the viral bat rabies pathogen, EBLV1, but while there are an estimated 15,000 individuals in southern England, there is no evidence that the disease is currently present in the UK. The ecology of the British population is poorly understood, with little known about hibernation, mating systems, philopatry, dispersal or social structure and more information is urgently needed from both a conservation and a public health perspective. Genetic analysis of samples collected across the UK and Europe has indicated that there is relatively little gene flow between the two populations, and that populations in the east and west of Britain are also fairly distinct. However, while this suggests that our bats do not frequently interbreed with Continental individuals, they may come into contact with them if they migrate overseas; work using stable isotopes is currently under way to establish whether such movements occur. East Anglian bats are among the most likely candidates for migratory behaviour due to the proximity of mainland Europe, and James would be very interested to hear from anyone in the region who knows of sites at which the species occurs reliably and could be caught for sampling – contact james.aegerter@fera.gsi.gov.uk.

Norfolk Bat Group – the first half century

The 50th anniversary of Norfolk Bat Group presented the ideal opportunity for John Goldsmith to present a detailed summary of the group's aims and achievements to date. Established in 1961, it was the first bat group in the country and many of the founding members were well known in both local and national natural history circles, including Jim Taylor-Page, Dick Bagnall-Oakeley, Percy Trett, Ted Ellis and Lord Cranbrook. The initial focus was on collecting observational data about the county's bats, a significantly greater challenge in the days before hi-tech detectors were available. A gradual decline in the group's activity was reversed in 1983, when it was re-launched with a renewed emphasis on fieldwork, the provision of conservation advice and the education of public and landowners. Construction of a website and production of a regular newsletter, the *Norfolk Natterer*, increased their profile and membership rose to 350. Much effort was spent on the surveying of hibernacula and on the hard physical graft necessary to safeguard and improve sites such as those at Eaton, Snetterton and STANTA; a Millennium push saw work carried out at 23 of the 100 known winter roosts. Monitoring has also taken place at over 300 churches, again underlining the importance of these buildings to bats in the county, and a number of long-term box projects have been established. Experimentation with regards to box design and placement has helped to establish best practice guidelines, and the group is also famous for the development of the Norfolk Bat Brick. About the size of a standard house brick, this structure is designed to fit into the wall of existing roost sites, providing a series of narrow chambers in which bats such as Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*), Natterer's, Brown Long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*), Brandt's (*Myotis brandtii*), Whiskered (*Myotis mystacinus*) and Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) can hide.

Anabats - a citizen science approach to bat monitoring

The majority of conservation monitoring in the UK is undertaken by volunteers, who collect data in the field that is then collated and processed centrally by a range of NGOs and government organisations. Bats have always been a problematic taxon due to the difficulty of identification, but Sam Philips from Norwich Bat Group and Stuart Newson from BTO outlined how technological developments in detecting equipment are allowing relatively inexperienced volunteers to record calls in the field which can then be analysed by more experienced bat workers at a later date. They presented the case study of Flordon Common in the south of Norfolk, where bats were surveyed as part of a larger, cross-taxa project, the results of which have recently been published in the N&NNS Transactions. Initial records were collected during a public bat walk, when the presence of four species was confirmed. A further three bats were added added to the site list through analysis of Anabat recordings collected by Stuart on 13 subsequent visits to the site, which he analysed with help from Norwich Bat Group. While care must be taken in interpretation of recordings and the detectors do have their limitations, the ability to mobilise large numbers of volunteers to collect data from far-flung parts of the county can only help to increase our knowledge of species distribution and habitat preferences in the county. NBIS has recently purchased two Anabats for use in future surveys.

Mind the gap; where are Norfolk's bats?

The last talk of the day was a slightly impromptu affair due to a cancellation by one of the speakers a few days before the event. Dave Leech presented a series of distribution maps produced from the data currently held in the NBIS mammal database, highlighting those areas that are relatively well represented (Norwich and The Broads, North and North-west Norfolk) and those that are less so, including the centre, south and extreme west. It is hoped that the increased communication generated by regular meetings, in combination with the projects and technological advances outlined above, will help us to fill these gaps in coming decades.

The event ended with a wide-ranging discussion that focused primarily on the passage of information between fieldworkers, county recorders, NBIS and the National Biodiversity Network. As last year, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and, funding permitting, a third meeting is planned for 2012.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to all the bat workers in Norfolk and neighbouring counties for making the event possible, and to all the speakers for another selection of informative and thought provoking presentations. Thanks are due to the sponsors - Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service and the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society – and to the British Trust for Ornithology for providing the venue. Finally, a special mention to Su Waldron at NBIS for her faultless logistical planning, to Lizzy Carroll and Sam Neal at NBIS for help on the day, and to Scott Perkin at NBP and Martin Horlock at NBIS for their continued help and support of these events.

Systematic List

RODENTIA

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* 0 (791) records 0 (285) tetrads

No records of this species have been received since 2006 and any sightings in the county in the last decade almost certainly relate to deliberate reintroduction attempts or individuals that have escaped from captivity. While releases are not illegal, failure to 'ensure future well-being' could lead to prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Several sites in Norfolk currently participate in captive breeding programmes for the species, supplying animals to bolster native populations in other parts of the UK, including Kelling Caravan Park, Banham Zoo, Pensthorpe and Easton College, and a free-roaming population has also been introduced to a site near Castle Rising. The editor would be keen to receive information about any other captive or released populations. Red Squirrel has undergone a rapid range reduction nationally, with approximately 75% of the remaining population located in Scotland, and is on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) list.

Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* 1,535 (5,361) records 240 (784) tetrads

More records were received for Grey Squirrel than for any other mammal in 2010, thanks largely to the data received from the BTO's Garden BirdWatch (GBW) survey particpants. Submissions from last year account for over a quarter of the historic dataset held for this species, which was recorded on 16% of county tetrads, 53 of them novel, bringing the total historic coverage to 54% of the tetrads in Norfolk. While one unusually dark individual was noted feeding under a bird table near Ditchingham (DCH), it was not thought to be of the black race found at sites across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, of which there is only a single Norfolk record, a road casualty found near Welney in 2004. The species is distributed throughout the county, with densities highest in the wooded areas of north-west Norfolk, north Norfolk, Norwich and the Broads and the Breckland region. Reporting peaked in January, with detectability possibly higher as foraging activity increased during the cold weather. As last year, only two records related to young animals, one in July (AJT) and the other in August (JVM). Two individuals were recorded caching food, possibly a wise move given the severity of the 2010/11 winter, one burying hazel nuts near Ludham in August (EGE) and another seen storing nuts at Whinburgh in September (SEK). As in other years, many were reported taking advantage of food provided for birds, although the animal spotted at Glandford presumably regretted it the moment it became trapped inside the bird feeder (AMO). More exotic tastes have obviously been cultivated in Framingham Earl, where a squirrel was observed eating frogs in a garden (FLO). Data from the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) suggest that the population in England as a whole has increased by 26% since 1995, although at 13%, the rate of growth in the East of England is one of the lowest in any region (Risely *et al.* 2011). Numbers of this prolific breeder can increase rapidly and while the species may be reaching capacity in England, concerns are growing in Italy, where 24 sites now contain substantial populations, the majority in Piedmont, Lombardy and Liguria (Martinoli *et al.* 2010).

Hazel Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* 0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads

No records of this species were received in 2010. There are a small number of historical records from the county, suggesting that reintroduction might be feasible, although no such scheme is currently planned. Since the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) began their reintroduction programme in 1993, dormice have been released into 16 woodlands across 12 counties. The closest site to Norfolk is Bradfield Woods, Suffolk where, 14 years after the extinction of the original population in 1992, 34 captive-bred animals were released and have since become established. Bedford Purlieus Wood near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire reported its highest count since 21 pairs of captive-bred dormice were introduced nine years previously, with over 40 individuals recorded in 2010. Hazel Dormouse is included on the UK BAP list.

Bank Vole *Myodes glareolus* 203 (1,122) records 35 (310) tetrads
While traditionally associated with woodlands and a good field layer, this common and widespread species also frequents gardens, especially in rural areas, and the glut of records in 2010, three times the number typically received, is largely due to the addition of the GBW dataset. The species was recorded on 17 novel tetrads in 2010 and has now been reported from 21% of tetrads in the county. Of those reports that specified a record type, 31% were the result of predation by domestic cats, while 13% involved individuals captured in live traps. The latter group included a total of 55 individuals caught over five nights of trapping at Flordon Common in April (SEN) using the Longworth traps loaned to the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society by Alf Gudgion, while a further 99 were caught in November and December over four nights of trapping at UEA campus (IBR). The only juvenile reported was an individual near Ditchingham that appeared between shingles hanging off the wall of a house, 1.6m from the ground (DCH).

Field Vole *Microtus agrestis* 91 (2,073) records 33 (450) tetrads
This widespread rodent favours areas of rough grassland and is only likely to be found in particularly rural gardens. The 2010 submission was therefore less influenced by the inclusion of GBW records, although 14 of the 33 tetrads from which it was reported were novel, with the species now recorded on 31% of Norfolk tetrads. Cat victims again accounted for a significant proportion of records, with 57% relating to dead individuals or to those rescued by householders from their pets' clutches, often after a prolonged pursuit. Another unfortunate vole was carried off by a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) near Ludham (EGE) and remains were found in pellets of the same species at North Creake (JWI). Barn Owls are particularly reliant on Field Voles to provide food for their young, and nesting success is therefore likely to reflect vole population cycles. Results from the BTO's Nest Record Scheme (www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs/results) show that Barn Owl brood sizes in 2010 were the third lowest on record, suggesting that it was a very poor vole year. Three individuals were caught using Longworth traps on Flordon Common in April (SEN) – the low number of captures relative to Bank Vole is likely to relate to habitat type and/or trap placement. Field Vole is one of the species that the Mammal Society is aiming to monitor under their Mini Mammal Monitoring survey – visit www.mammal.org.uk for more information.

Water Vole *Arvicola terrestris* 57 (2,538) records 32 (457) tetrads
Submissions in 2010 returned to more typical levels, having been boosted over the period 2007-2009 by survey data collected as part of the Broadlands Flood Alleviation Project. Only four records related to novel tetrads, but despite being a habitat specialist, reports of Water Vole have now been received from 31% of Norfolk tetrads. As in previous years, the distribution of records suggests that the species' strongholds are in central north Norfolk and around Norwich and the Broads. Two voles were also seen in the north-west of the county, a particular tame individual feeding on Rigid Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) in Hunstanton Hall moat (CRO) and another at Redwell Marsh, Holme (PHE). A third was reported on The Nunnery Reserve, Thetford (TMA), with signs also found at this site (IGH). Visitors to Cley NWT reserve were treated to frequent sightings of juveniles during July and August, recording a maximum count of four youngsters (CLY). The species has undergone a national, long-term decline (TMP 2009) and is included on the on the UK BAP list. The National Water Vole Database and Mapping Project, to which NBIS contributed data from the Norfolk Mammal Database, identified populations in the River Yare and River Wensum catchment areas as being of national importance. The results of this project indicate that habitat management and control of American Mink has had a positive impact on Water Vole populations in some areas of Britain, but that numbers are still declining in the south-east of England and are largely absent from the south-west. A Species Action Plan has been developed under the Norfolk BAP, emphasising the need for local studies of Water Vole distribution and that of their predators - see www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans for more information.

Harvest Mouse *Micromys minutus* 5 (768) records 3 (245) tetrads

Very few reports of this elusive rodent were received in 2010 and only one was from a novel tetrad, the species now having been recorded on 17% of Norfolk tetrads. Four of the five records originated from the Broads, two relating to nests found at How Hill NNR (PHE) and two referring to individuals killed by the ever-reliable felines of EGE and PTA at Ludham and Potter Heigham respectively. The sole report from the west of the county resulted from the dissection of Barn Owl pellets found at North Creake by JWI. While the majority of recent records have been submitted from the east and north of the county, this may merely indicate the distribution of active recorders. The Harvest Mouse monitoring project launched by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project had a very successful monitoring season, with nests found at 31 of the 37 locations searched between October 2009 and May 2010, supplementing the results of their pellet analyses. For details of the results and instructions on how to find nests, visit www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/species-and-habitats/harvest-mouse-project/, and if you'd like to learn more about identifying the animals themselves, watching the captive individuals at Natural Surroundings, near Glandford is both informative and immensely enjoyable! Harvest Mouse is also one of the target species for the Mammal Society's Mini Mammal Monitoring scheme – find out more at www.mammal.org.uk. Despite some uncertainty about long-term trend in abundance, Harvest Mouse is included on the UK BAP list due to the potential detrimental effects of increased pesticide use and loss of arable margins

Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus* 289 (2,231) records 59 (456) tetrads

The Wood Mouse submission also benefited from the data submitted by GBW participants, with more than 10% of the historic dataset consisting of observations made last year. A common and widespread rodent found throughout the county, the species was recorded on 19 novel tetrads in 2010 and has now been reported from 31% of Norfolk tetrads. Wood Mouse readily enters outhouses and even inhabited buildings, increasing the potential for confusion with House Mouse. The brown dorsal colouration of adult Wood Mouse, contrasting with the white ventral fur, allows easy separation. Juveniles are greyer and therefore appear more similar, but can be distinguished by the longer hind feet, larger eyes and ears. Of those records where a record type was recorded, 43% related to individuals caught by domestic cats. Garden bird feeders provide a tempting and reliable source of fast food, and rodents also benefit from the numerous grain feeders provided for gamebirds across the county. JEM described a 'heart-warming scene' (unless you're a gamekeeper) in which a Common Rat was knocking food from just such a hopper in a snowy field at Flitcham Abbey, only for it to be gathered by a Wood Mouse waiting below. Live trapping by SEN at Flordon Common over five nights produced 10 individuals, whilst a total of 62 were caught on UEA campus during four trapping sessions (IBR).

Yellow-necked Mouse *Apodemus flavicollis* 6 (69) records 4 (23) tetrads

Norfolk marks the northern range limit of this rodent, which associates primarily with the tangled understorey found in mature deciduous woodland and along ancient hedges. Six records of Yellow-necked Mouse were received in 2010, of which two were from novel tetrads, both located in the species' apparent core range to the south of Norwich; SEN caught individuals on two separate occasions in Longworth traps set at Flordon Common, while another was reported by DCH as having been killed in a friend's trap at Ditchingham. This species was also trapped on UEA campus, a reliable site, on multiple occasions (IBR), and was again caught at Merton (JVM), adding to the increasing pool of records originating from the south-west of the county. A further five reports were received from a GBW participant, which are currently pending verification. Wood Mouse can be a potential confusion species, with many individuals showing some yellow spotting on the throat, although the marking is less well defined and extensive, never joining the brown dorsal fur at the neck to produce a complete collar. If you do think you have found a Yellow-necked Mouse, photographs of the collar and measurements of length, weight and hind foot length are particularly useful aids to identification, as is dentition if the specimen can be kept.

House Mouse *Mus domesticus* 24 (750) records 13 (335) tetrads
Over half of the observations of this under-recorded species, which has now been reported from 24% of Norfolk tetrads, originate from the GBW dataset and further verification may be required to eliminate the possibility of confusion with Wood Mouse (see above). Of the remaining 10 records, five relate to individuals caught in a variety of traps at Blakeney (KMF), Thurning (DLA), UEA Campus (IBR) and Brundall (CSM), another was found dead at UEA (IBR) and one mouse was killed by a cat in Norwich (GKE). More records of this species would be very welcome (unlike the individuals themselves), particularly if accompanied by a photograph to confirm identification.

Common Rat *Rattus norvegicus* 312 (2,321) records 83 (634) tetrads
As with Bank Vole and Wood Mouse, the Common Rat submission for 2010 was boosted by the addition of GBW data, which accounted for over 80% of records. These include observations from 26 novel tetrads and the species has now been recorded on 44% of Norfolk tetrads. Reports were evenly distributed across the county and throughout the year, although there was a slight drop in recording during June and July. Given that the majority of observations relate to animals in gardens, this seasonal pattern may reflect a reduction in the amount of food provided for birds in the warmer weather, leading to decreases in either abundance or detectability. Individuals were witnessed using bird feeders at Welney (SHO), Merton (JVM) and Potter Heigham (PTA) and eating from gamebird hoppers at Flitcham (JEM, PPA), with another at Thetford (NCA) risking Her Majesty's wrath by feasting on a dead Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). Several were reported being taken by domestic cats and one animal at Felbrigg succumbed to a Stoat (PMN). A juvenile was seen in Norwich in July (GKE) and two more were observed feeding on bramble together in a hedgerow at Kelling Quags in September (MPT).

Ship Rat *Rattus rattus* 0 (8) records 0 (6) tetrads
No definite records of this species have been received for a number of years. Once widespread across Great Britain, numbers began to fall during the 18th Century, with the newly introduced Common Rat gradually becoming the commoner species. By the mid 20th Century, records were very localised and the most recent records from most major cities date back to the 1980s.

Coypu *Myocastor coypus* 0 (6) records 0 (6) tetrads
Given the numbers of this introduced pest species that the county once held, it is surprising that it is so poorly represented in the database. The most recent record refers to an individual killed on the road at Barton Bendish in 1988, although the last individual trapped by MAFF (now Defra) in Norfolk was a male caught on 29th December 1989. A skull was found during the dredging of a dyke at How Hill in 1997.

LAGOMORPHA

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* 777 (5,112) records 247 (910) tetrads
Many more records for this common and widespread species were received last year, thanks primarily to the contribution of GBW participants, who reported surprisingly large numbers utilising rural gardens. Rabbit has now been recorded on 63% of Norfolk tetrads, 37 of which were novel in 2010. The majority (94%) of reports related to sightings of live individuals and observations were evenly distributed across the county. Submissions peaked at the start of the breeding season in April and young were recorded from the beginning of April (AJT) through to the beginning of August (PTA), observations peaking in June (AMO, CJA, EGE, JVM, PDO, PMN, SWG). The number of sites at which individuals showing signs of myxomatosis were observed increased significantly from just two in 2008 to 23 in 2009, but fell back again to nine in 2010, with records received from Briston (MAB), Burnham Thorpe (JVM), Ditchingham (DCH), Hoveton (SWG), Morningthorpe

(SHO), Repps-with-Bastwick (SWG), Tharston (SHO), Waxham (SWG) and Wells (SHO). The highest count was 268 animals, recorded by IBR during a transect survey across UEA campus undertaken in September. SHO observed 150 at East Wretham in March and PTA estimated that there were at least 100 individuals at Ringstead Downs in August. Melanistic animals were reported from the area around Beeston Regis (FJF), Dunston Heath (SHO), Foxhole Common (SHO) and Thorpe Woods (JEM). Predators noted included domestic cat (EGE), Fox (EGE, CLY) and Stoat (MHC), although in a potential reversal of fortunes, PMN did observe a Stoat being chased by a Rabbit at Cley – they breed them tough in north Norfolk, apparently. Results published in the latest BBS Report (Risely *et al.* 2011) suggest that the UK Rabbit population has declined by 36% since 1995, but the East of England population is bucking the trend, having increased by 38% over the same period, the highest figure in any region. Numbers of the species are falling across its native European range, a trend linked to the increased prevalence of diseases such as myxomatosis and Rabbit haemorrhagic disease, habitat loss, and hunting, which has led to declines in predators, including Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) and Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*). British declines could have similar impacts on predators such as Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), and the reduced influence of Rabbit grazing would have serious implications for some grassland ecosystems.

Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus* 716 (5,884) records 287 (975) tetrads

Brown Hare was recorded on 35 novel tetrads during 2010 and has now been observed on 67% of tetrads in the county, the highest proportion for any mammal. Reports were distributed across the whole county, with apparent concentrations in the Broads and north Norfolk likely to reflect observer effort. Almost 96% referred to sightings of live individuals, with observations peaking between March and April, the main period of male fertility when activity levels are likely to be high. The end of January was a good time to be looking for the first boxing hares, with the behaviour noted by several observers at Buckenham (JBA, MFH) and Ringstead (JWI) between the 30th and 31st of the month. Boxers were also witnessed at Blakeney Freshes on 11th March (EST), and MGR recorded the latest pair at Little Hale on 9th June. The earliest leveret was reported on 16th April, a newborn found dead on Blakeney Point (EST), and the earliest live young were observed near Flitcham on 22nd May (ROS). Records of juveniles peaked in June and then declined into August (AMO, DCH, EST, MHY, PDO, PHE, RMR, SHO, SRI), although a late leveret was observed by JDU on 1st October. Maximum numbers were similar to 2009, with 43 recorded by JWI on his survey site near Ringstead in April (compared to 39 the previous year), 40 reported by PPA at Little Massingham in January and 39 counted at Buckenham, also in January (MFH, SHO). The latest BBS trends (Risely *et al.* 2011) suggest that the English population is stable, with numbers in the East of England displaying a non-significant increase of 7% since 1995. National Gamebag Census (NGC) data provide some evidence of a longer-term decline of up to 80% since the late 1800s, with a particularly steep fall in number from the 1960s, concurrent with the period of most rapid agricultural intensification (Hutchings & Harris 1996). The species is included on both the UK and the Norfolk BAP lists and a Species Action Plan has been prepared, emphasising the need for continued monitoring to assess the impacts of changing farming practices, predation, disease and competition on this nationally important population - see www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans for more information.

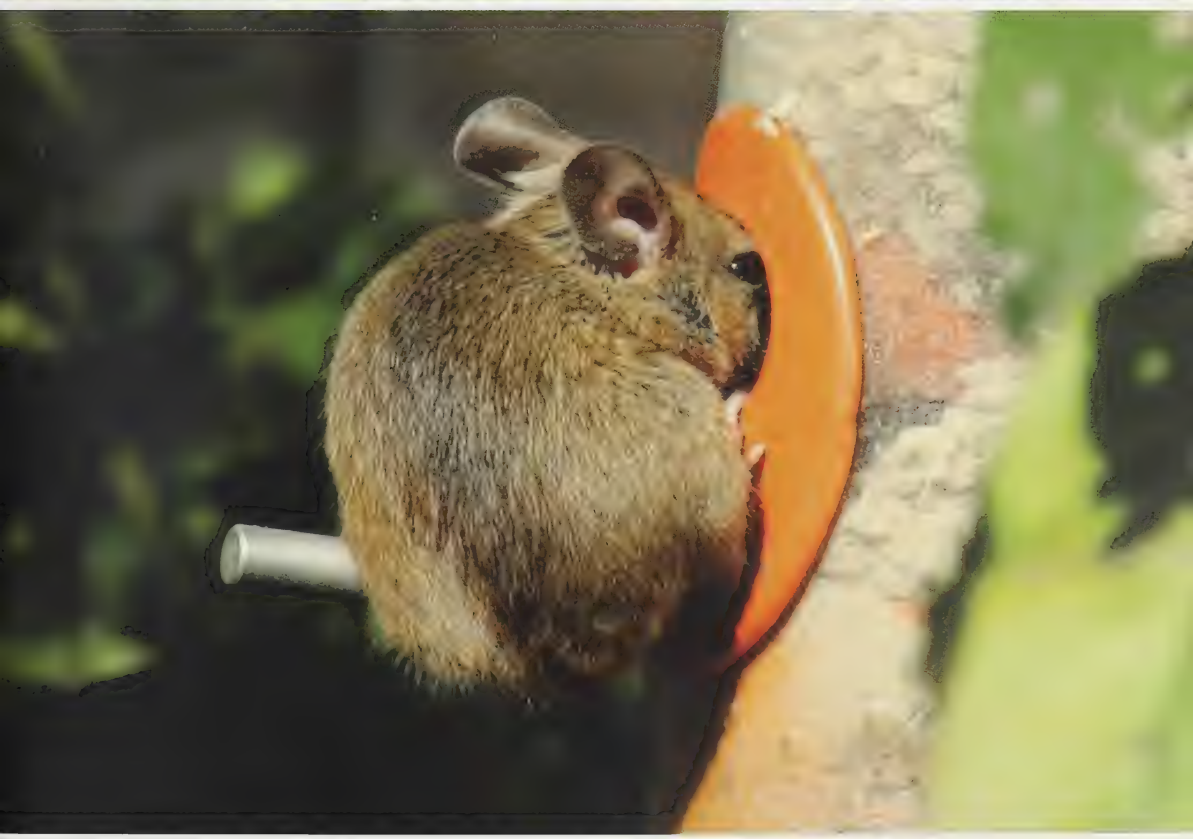
ERINACEOMORPHA

Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* 729 (4,573) records 182 (858) tetrads

Hedgehog records were submitted from 22 novel tetrads in 2010 and the species has now been observed on 59% of Norfolk tetrads. Reports were received from across the county, a slight easterly bias likely to reflect the distribution of recorders and of roads, with traffic casualties accounting for 46% of records (excluding those received from GBW participants). Unsurprisingly, there were few records during the cold spell at the beginning of the year, with only a single individual at Heacham (PCO) reported prior to the beginning of March. Sightings increased rapidly from mid-March,

White-beaked Dolphin on Blakeney Point, 23rd October 2010.
Top; Note dark upperparts and flanks, contrary to illustrations in many field guides. Markings of this species can be very variable. *(Richard Porter)*
Bottom; As the name suggests, this is the only British cetacean to possess a white top to the beak. See article in this report for more information. *(Richard Porter)*

Caught on a trail camera, Beeston Regis Common, February 2011.
Top; Reeves' Muntjac coming to investigate the peanut bait *(Francis Farrow)*
Bottom; Fox coming to investigate the Reeves' Muntjac? See article in this report for more details about the equipment used *(Francis Farrow)*



Top; Bad hair day? A Water Vole enjoys a water weed meal at Cley, 6th August 2010. *(John Miller)*
Bottom; Snack food. A Wood Mouse goes for the fast food option and raids a seed feeder at a garden in Hellesdon, 16th September 2010. *(Derek Longe)*

Top left; A coat for all seasons – a Stoat at Cley, June 2010 ... *(Steve Gantlett)*
Top right; ... and another at Bintree, January 2011 *(Alan Dixon)*. Twice as many Stoat in ermine were reported during the 2010/11 winter as have been in previous years.
Bottom; A Rabbit poses at Blakeney, May 2010 *(Julian Bhalerao)*. The UK population is thought to have declined by a third over the last 15 years.

peaking between May and July at the height of the males' fertile period. Observations remained fairly frequent until the end of October, with relatively few individuals seen after mid-November; it is likely that most of the c. 20 records submitted after this date referred to individuals disturbed during hibernation. The first record of a young Hedgehog was received from Costessey on 15th June (GMC), the majority appearing in July and August (CRO, DIL, JVM, MIS, ROS, SWO), and one late juvenile was spotted at Ditchingham on 5th November (DCH). Work undertaken by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has underpinned a new report on 'The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2011', published by PTES and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and available to download from the websites of all three organisations. The study utilised data from two PTES and three BTO surveys that currently record Hedgehog across a range of urban and rural habitats, finding evidence for a drop in numbers of between 25% and 40% over the last decade, and thereby justifying the species' inclusion on the UK BAP list. Agricultural intensification, fragmentation of urban habitats and predation by Badger have all been postulated as potential drivers of this decline, but more research is needed to identify the underlying causes.

SORICOMORPHA

Mole *Talpa europaea* 761 (4,766) records 233 (931) tetrads

The number of Mole records received in 2010 increased substantially due to the receipt of data from GBW participants. Reports were submitted from 39 novel tetrads and the species has now been recorded on 64% of Norfolk tetrads. The distribution of records was generally fairly even throughout the county, although the density of records was higher in the south-east. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority (88%) relate to molehills, but these still provide useful information about the species' range. It was a good year for live sightings, with 16 individuals observed above the surface. A further 38 reports of dead animals were received, 15 having been deliberately trapped, six falling foul of traffic (GMC, JDU, PMN, PTA, ROS), three succumbing to domestic cats (PTA, SHO) and one seen in the bill of a Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) at Hockham Heath (SHO). Juveniles, two dead and one alive, were observed on 16th May (RYA) and 1st June (JLA). Articles about a boom in Mole numbers due to a combination of pesticide bans and warmer winters continue to appear in the press, but in reality there is very little quantitative evidence. The species is incredibly difficult to survey directly and apparent changes in abundance may be confounded by shifts in activity patterns. The most recent figures from the Tracking Mammals Partnership (TMP 2009) suggest that numbers may have fallen over the last decade.

Common Shrew *Sorex araneus* 63 (1,413) records 35 (396) tetrads

This common and widespread species was reported from 13 novel tetrads in 2010, bringing the total coverage to 27% of Norfolk tetrads. The majority of records originated from the north and east of the county, but this is likely to reflect the biased distribution of observers. Five nights of Longworth trapping at Flordon Common in April produced a total of 25 captures (SEN), while eight captures were reported from UEA Campus over four nights in November and December (IBR). Several observers used the much cheaper technique of lifting metal sheets or dustbin lids placed on the ground to provide shelter (CJA, MAB, DCH), although this typically gives very brief views and small individuals of Common Shrew can be difficult to separate from Pygmy Shrew. The characteristic features are the tail, which only exceeds 50% of the total head and body length in Pygmy, and the dorsal colouration, the flanks of Common tending to be paler than the back. Five individuals were killed by cats (DLA, EGE, IKE, PTA) and remains of another were found in a Barn Owl pellet collected at North Creake (JWI).

Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus* 25 (599) records 15 (229) tetrads

While records of this species, thought to be as common and widespread as Common Shrew in the UK, were only received from 15 tetrads, 14 of these were novel and Pygmy Shrew has now been

observed on 16% of Norfolk tetrads. As identification can be difficult (see above), the majority of reports relate to trapped or dead individuals. Twenty were captured in Longworth traps set on Flordon Common over six nights in April (SEN) and two were live-trapped on UEA Campus (IBR), while standard mousetraps dispatched individuals at Merton (JVM) and Castle Acre (RWG). A further five reports concerned animals taken by domestic cats (EGE, IKE, SBA, SHO).

Water Shrew *Neomys fodiens* 9 (535) records 9 (170) tetrads
Of the nine tetrads from which the species was reported in 2010, two were novel, bringing the total coverage to 12% of tetrads in the county. Five records originated from the Broads, including one seen swimming across a dyke at Wheatfen (NJE) and another trapped after regularly frequenting The Bridge pub in Potter Heigham (SUG), plus live individuals at Hoveton Hall (SWG) and West Somerton (KMO & JHA) and a dead animal at Horsey (KMO). The other reports were submitted from central north Norfolk, detailing sightings of live shrews at Fakenham (RYA), Cley (DIR) and Edgefield (IKE), and a dead individual at Stiffkey (DIR). The Edgefield animal was captured by hand and bit the observer. Unusually for a mammal, the saliva of this species contains a toxin designed to stun their prey - while it can apparently cause a painful rash, no ill effects were felt in this case. Population trends for this elusive species, which occurs at much lower densities than other shrews, are currently uncertain, but there is some suggestion from localised studies that numbers may have declined.

CHIROPTERA

Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* 0 (2) records 0 (2) tetrads
While this species has not been recorded in the county for almost 50 years, there are two historic records in the database, one from north-east Norfolk in 1914 and another of an unspecified number of individuals recorded on the southern county boundary in 1959. Interestingly, a colony was also recorded in chalk caves just over the border in Suffolk in 1960. Due to historic declines and the reliance of the wintering population on relatively few key hibernation sites (<100 sites hold more than 10 individuals), the species remains on the UK BAP list.

Whiskered Bat *Myotis mystacinus* 2 (13) records 2 (8) tetrads
Brandt's Bat *Myotis brandtii* 0 (11) records 0 (8) tetrads
As it is difficult to distinguish the calls of *Myotis* bats using aural bat detectors, the majority of records received for this species complex are of hibernating individuals, which cannot be handled. These two bats are notoriously difficult to separate even in the hand, with information about upper and lower jaw dentition, penis shape, tragus shape and thumb claw length required to guarantee correct identification (Berge 2006). The situation has become more complex still, with the discovery of Alcathoe's Bat (*M. althacoe*) in North Yorkshire and Sussex (Jan 2010), the first British records of this closely related species. The majority of historic records therefore cannot be assigned to individual species and the totals given above should be interpreted with caution. The reports of Whiskered Bat received last year concerned a total of four animals found in two hibernacula in the north-west of the county in January (NBS), near to a site where an individual of this species was mist-netted in 2009 (see Finnemore & Murray (2010) for more detail). It was also possible to see some identification features without handling them. A fifth bat of this complex was found at another hibernation roost in the area, but could not be identified to species, and the same was true of four individuals recorded at a traditional hibernaculum in the Brecks in December (ARI, MWB, NGI). A possible foraging Whiskered/Brandt's Bat was also recorded during a survey undertaken by MPA near Downham Market in June. Data from the Hibernation Survey, organised by the Bat Conservation Trust as part of their National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP), suggest that numbers have been stable since 1997, but as this is a compound trend for all three species, declines in one may therefore be masked by increases in the others.

Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii* 68 (689) records 36 (159) tetrads
While behavioural characteristics can be helpful in the identification of this bat, all bar three of the reports received last year related to bat detector or roost records. The number of tetrads on which the species was observed doubled in 2010, and 18 (50%) of these were novel, Daubenton's Bat now having been recorded on 11% of Norfolk tetrads. While records were evenly distributed across the county, as is the case for the historic data, the majority of novel sites (14) were in west Norfolk, ranging from the Fens (MPA), across to the north-west (KMO, NBS, PPA, RYA, SDC, SLM,) and down to the Brecks (ARI, JGG, MWB, NGI), reflecting the improving coverage in this area. A check of one hibernaculum in the Stanford training area in January produced a total of 38 individuals (JGG, MWB, NGI), the maximum count received in 2010. Results of the NBMP Hibernation and Waterway Surveys suggest that the UK population has remained stable since data collection started in 1997.

Natterer's Bat *Myotis nattererii* 45 (446) records 29 (162) tetrads
Records of this species originated across the whole of Norfolk during 2010, mirroring the distribution of the historic dataset. As with Daubenton's Bat, over half (15) of the tetrads from which the species were reported last year were novel, almost all located to the west of Norwich and, to date, observations have been submitted from 11% of tetrads in the county. Almost half of the records resulted from PPA's work on Norfolk churches and the highest numbers were noted at Holme Hale, with a count of 232 adults in June and another of 255, likely to include some juveniles, made in August. A roost in Toftrees, also surveyed in August, produced a count of 141 individuals (PPA), while at least 43 were recorded during a check of 72 bat boxes at Holt Country Park in October (JEH). Other maternity and hibernation roosts across the county were checked by KZL, NBS, NGI and RMR. The NBMP collects information on Natterer's Bat numbers via both Hibernation Surveys and Colony Counts. While the results of the latter show no significant trend over the last 13 years, the more statistically powerful Hibernation Surveys have recorded an increase abundance of approximately 6% per annum over the same period. More research is needed to determine whether this is evidence of real population growth or the result of the redistribution of individuals between hibernation sites.

Leisler's Bat *Nyctalus leisleri* 2 (3) records 2 (3) tetrads
While the species has been present on the Suffolk side of Thetford Forest since the 1980s, the only previous record of this species accompanied by sufficient information to confirm it as a Norfolk sighting is a report of an unspecified number of individuals found in a bat box in July 1997, published in that year's Bird & Mammal Report. It was therefore very exciting to receive, not one, but two reports from within the county boundary during 2010. When a member of the public brought a shoebox to CAG in May, she certainly was not expecting it to contain Norfolk's second Leisler's Bat, a female found near Irstead, apparently uninjured but with a bare patch on its side. Four months later, across the other side of the county towards Downham Market, MPA picked up an unusual call on an Anabat during a dawn survey: 'We noted that the time between calls was around 300ms, where Serotine is generally under 160ms, with the peak [frequency] higher than a Noctule. We are confident that it is a Leisler's Bat and [identification was] verified by Ian Nixon of Lincolnshire Bat Group. A single recording during months of surveys suggests that this was possibly just a passing/migratory bat rather than regular user of the site from a nearby roost. There is certainly good habitat in the area though, with mature woodland, rivers and grazing pasture.' RMR also recorded a foraging bat that was probably of this species, echo-locating between 25.4 kHz and 26.1 KHz, at a site near Thetford in June. The species is widespread in Great Britain, but generally uncommon and therefore difficult to monitor outside its stronghold in Ireland. Will more individuals be discovered in the county as the network of Norfolk bat workers expands?

Noctule *Nyctalus noctula* 53 (513) records 48 (226) tetrads
As with many of the other Chirpotera, the number of sites from which Noctule was reported

increased significantly in 2010, with over 70% of observations originating from novel tetrads. The species has now been recorded on 16% of Norfolk tetrads and is the third most commonly observed bat in the county. Historic data are distributed fairly evenly across the county, with concentrations around the Broads and east Norfolk, in the Brecks and along the length of the north coast, although the 2010 records showed no bias towards any particular region. While size and flight behaviour can be characteristic to the experienced eye, 66% of reports related to small numbers of feeding individuals, typically 1-4, identified using bat detectors and a further 15% to animals found roosting during autumn bat box checks, including five at Sheringham Park (KZL), one at Felbrigg (KZL) and three from 73 boxes at Holt Country Park (JEH). Noctule is monitored by the NBMP Field Survey, the results of which suggest that the UK population has been stable since 1997, although there is some suggestion of an increase in Scotland. Due to the threats posed by the loss of roost sites, commuting routes and feeding habitat, a Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan has been prepared, covering Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat – see www.norfolkbiodiversity.org actionplans for more details.

Common/Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus spp.* 447 (3,274) records 133 (564) tetrads
As noted in previous reports, the taxonomic split of Pipistrelle into two species – *P. pipistrellus*, the Common or 45kHz Pipistrelle, and *P. pygmaeus*, the Soprano or 55kHz Pipistrelle – means that many of the historical records in the database cannot now be resolved to species. Of the 2010 dataset, 207 reports from 76 tetrads referred to Common Pipistrelle and 174 from 72 tetrads to Soprano Pipistrelle, with a further 61 left as *Pipistrellus* species. Records for both species were distributed evenly across the county, with no obvious spatial pattern beyond that of observer distribution. Many of the records were of single bats or small groups recorded during transect surveys, but a significant proportion originated from checks of roost at churches (NGI, PPA). The maximum count of Common Pipistrelle was of 131 individuals at a roost in South Creake in June (PPA), equal to the maximum count of Soprano Pipistrelle, recorded at Cley Church in August (PPA). The earliest report of both species was on 9th April at West Lexham (PPA), while the latest was of Soprano Pipistrelle at Ludham (EGE), although without standardised recording it is difficult to ascertain whether this tells us more about the behaviour of the bats or the batters. Both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle are monitored by NBMP Field Surveys and Colony Counts. While the latter suggests that numbers in the UK have fallen since 1999 (Common by 47%, Soprano by 36%), the former identifies a significant increase over the same period (Common by 63%, Soprano by 34%). Given the tendency of these species to move between roosts annually, the increase identified by the Field Survey is probably the more reliable trend. There is some evidence for Common Pipstrelle that trends in the east of Britain are more positive than those in the west. Due to the threats posed by the loss of roost sites, commuting routes and feeding habitat, a Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan has been prepared, covering Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and Brown Long-eared Bat – see www.norfolkbiodiversity.org actionplans for more details.

Nathusius' Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* 3 (22) records 3 (13) tetrads
This scarce Norfolk species was originally recorded at Filby Broad in 1998, and the majority of subsequent observations originate from the Broads or the north-east coast. While it is has traditionally been regarded as a rare bat nationally, it may also be substantially under-recorded. The most recent county submissions support this view, with two of the records from 2010 (and all three from 2009) submitted from novel tetrads, including the first ever received from the vice-county of West Norfolk, encountered on a survey near Fakenham in September (JHA, SDC, SLM). The species is known to be migratory, and both this and the report from the other novel tetrad at Hickling (CHW, MFN, SLM) could therefore relate to individuals on passage. However, while also recorded in the autumn, a third observation concerned at least two bats detected at a site in the southern Broads where the species has previously been recorded during the breeding season (PPA). In September 2009, the BCT piloted a new survey targeted specifically at this species and the latest results are

published on their website at www.bats.org.uk/pages/nath_pip_2009_2010_results.html.

Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* 27 (135) records 18 (74) tetrads
Norfolk represents the north-eastern limit of this species' current range in the UK. While the majority of historic records originated from the Broads and the Brecks, recent increases in surveying activity have resulted in an influx of reports from other areas of the county, particularly in the west. Sixteen of the 18 tetrads on which the species was observed in 2010 were novel, and Serotine has now been recorded on 5% of Norfolk tetrads. Of the newly identified sites in 2010, four were in the south-east (CHW, PHE, PPA, SLM), four were to the south-west of Norwich (JEH, PPA, SEN), three were in the Brecks (NGI), one was in central Norfolk (MPA) and four were in the north-west (JEH, KMO, RYA, SLM, PPA). Over 70% of records related to small numbers of free-flying individuals, with a maximum of five recorded at any one site, including one group at Merton being stalked by a Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*), which would perch on a branch and then dash out in an attempt to catch the bats as they passed (JVM). The remaining observations, all made by PPA, concerned single roosting individuals or their characteristic droppings. Serotine is monitored by the NBMP Field Survey and Colony Counts, neither of which have detected any significant trend in abundance across the UK over the last decade. Numbers of individuals encountered on any one survey tend to be small, however, so the power to detect small population changes is relatively low.

Particoloured Bat *Vespertilio murinus* 0 (3) records 0 (2) tetrads
The most recent record pertains to an individual which flew in off the sea at Kelling in 2008 and roosted in a pillbox (see Wagstaff & Finnemore (2009) for more information). There are only about 25 historic records of the species in the UK, but the frequency of occurrence is increasing and sightings now occur almost annually.

Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* 29 (223) records 18 (76) tetrads
A nationally rare bat, the known range of this species in the county continues to increase with recording effort and Barbastelle has now been observed on over 5% of Norfolk tetrads. Of the 18 from which reports were submitted in 2010, the species had been previously recorded from just five, bringing the total number of novel tetrads identified since 2007 to 29, a very impressive total. The newly identified sites were scattered across the whole of Norfolk, with two in the west (MPA), five in the north-west (KMO, MFN, MPA, RYA, SDC, SLM), four in the Brecks (NGI), one near Norwich (JHA, SLM) and one to the south of Norwich (SEN). The Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group continues to take a very active role in monitoring populations and researching their behaviour. Radio-tracking work is currently underway at one site in the north-west of the county, where an emergence count at one tree roost totalled 20 individuals (NBS), and at two sites in north Norfolk; see Zealand & Murray (2009) for more details about the group and its aims. Very little is known about the national population trajectory as it is a very difficult bat to monitor due to its mobility and range. The NBMP Woodland Survey is targeted specifically at Barbastelle, and recorded individuals at all seven of the sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation for the species in 2010. Its comparative rarity has assured it a place on the UK BAP list and a Norfolk Species Action Plan has recently been produced, highlighting the threats posed by habitat simplification and loss of roosts, and stressing the importance of both continued monitoring at known sites and surveying of additional sites for evidence of new colonies – see www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans for more details.

Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus aruitus* 71 (615) records 38 (261) tetrads
The relatively low submission total for this common and widespread bat may be partially explained by its relatively quiet calls which can be difficult to detect and to distinguish from those produced by several of the *Myotis* genus. Records from last year were distributed evenly across the county, as is the case with the historic data, and the species has now been recorded on 18% of Norfolk tetrads, 23 (61%) of which were novel in 2010. Autumn box checks in north Norfolk produced the highest

counts (KZL, JEH), with 42 individuals recorded at Sheringham Park in October and another 46 at Felbrigg As in previous years, the species was caught in mist nets by both observers targeting bats (NBS) and those targeting birds, as ACA found when he had to extract an individual he netted at Kelling while aiming for roosting Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*). Brown Long-eared Bat is monitored by NBMP Hibernation Surveys and Colony Counts, and results from both schemes suggest that populations have been stable over the last decade. Due to the threats posed by the loss of roost sites, commuting routes and feeding habitat, a Norfolk Grouped Species Action Plan has been prepared, covering Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat – see www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans for more details.

CARNIVORA

Fox *Vulpes vulpes* 282 (2,741) records 140 (758) tetrads

The 2010 submission for Fox contained records from 34 novel tetrads, the majority relating to animals seen in gardens by GBW participants, increasing the historic coverage to 52% of Norfolk tetrads. Reports were received from across the county, with aggregations around Norwich and the Broads probably reflecting the easterly bias in observer distribution and activity. Over 70% of records involved live individuals, with road casualties accounting for a further 19%. Observations peaked in May and June, around the time the cubs are weaned, although sightings were also frequent in January and December, with individuals perhaps having to spend more time foraging in the cold weather. The first cubs of the year were seen on UEA campus in March (IBR), where four were photographed with their mother by a motion-sensing camera (see Francis Farrow's article in this Report for more details about using this type of equipment). Small young continued to be seen throughout May (JLA, MSW, PDO, ROS) and June (CSM, EST, JLA, PTA, SEN, SWO, JWI), into July (JLA). Individuals carrying rabbits were recorded at East Runton (CLY) and Ludham (EGE), while a severe case of role reversal was noted by MPC at Dilham, who watched a Fox being harassed by a Pheasant (*Phasianus colichus*). Several animals were witnessed taking advantage of the winter freeze to access areas that are usually out of reach, crossing the ice at Beeston Regis (FJF), Ludham (EGE) and Alderfen Broad (SHO). The latest results from the BBS imply that numbers across the whole of England have been stable since the mid-1990s, with some evidence of an increase in the south (Risely e*t al.* 2011), although as it is a diurnal survey, the sample size is relatively small and trends should be interpreted with caution.

Badger *Meles meles* 117 (1,005) records 82 (392) tetrads

The number of Badger records submitted continues to increase, thanks largely to the efforts of JCR, the Norfolk Badger Recorder, who monitors the species intensively within the county. There was a slight drop in reporting in 2010, but this is not thought to be indicative of decrease in abundance; available evidence suggests that the Norfolk population is currently stable (JCR). The species has now been observed on 27% of tetrads in the county, the majority of last year's reports originating in the east, north and central regions, including data from 20 tetrads where the species had not previously been recorded. Individuals killed on the road still account for approximately half of the records received, a further 40% pertaining to sightings of live animals. The only record of a juvenile received in 2010 was of a road casualty at Scoulton on 26th June, but a lactating female, also the victim of a collision with traffic, was recorded at Sparham on 10th March (JCR). JCR also witnessed a pair mating at a site near Dereham on 11th January. The results of National Badger surveys suggest that the population increased by 77% over the period 1988-1997 (Wilson *et al.* 1997) and the combined evidence from BBS and local surveys suggests that numbers have continued to increase subsequently (TMP 2009), although there are insufficient data to produce accurate trends at a UK scale.

Otter *Lutra lutra* 262 (2,431) records 96 (355) tetrads

Last year's dataset was again boosted by information from the Brecks Otter Survey, and we were also passed reports submitted to the International Otter Survival Fund (www.otter.org). The majority of records received in 2010 originated from the Brecks, central north Norfolk and the Broads, but there was also a distinct cluster of observations to the south-west of Norwich. A single observation was received from the north-west, relating to two individuals seen together at a site near Narborough (LST). Eleven of the tetrads on which Otter was recorded were novel, bringing the total coverage to 24% of county tetrads. Over 40% of reports involved sightings of live individuals, with spraints and feeding remains accounting for most of the other records. Only two road casualties were reported, one near Holt (ACA) and another at Rushford (APC). Breeding is thought to be aseasonal in the south of the country and young were reported throughout the year, with sightings at Foulden in Jaunary (ROR), Thetford in March (CGR), Caistor St Edmund and Reedham in May (NAD, PHE), Corpusty and Diss in July (JEL, MBL) and Thetford in September (IEV). Many of these records relate to family parties; the pups can reach independence at seven months but may stay with the mother until they are a year old (Harris & Yalden 2008). The Otter family at Thetford stayed in the area for several months, affording amazing views to many residents and giving a real insight to their behaviour. While they were often seen catching and eating fish, other food items recorded included a Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and a Mute Swan, the latter presumably scavenged (TMA). Thanks to the blog created by MUE, you can now keep up to date with Otter sightings at South Walsham, where up to four individuals have been seen by over 40 observers since the spring of 2009 (www.southwalshamvillage.org/otter-watch). Results for the Fifth Otter Survey of England, undertaken between July 2009 and March 2010, were published at the end of the year. The figures were very encouraging, with 60% of the 2,940 sites checked reporting evidence of the species, compared to just 6% in the original 1977-1979 survey. Pesticide bans, improved water quality and increased legal protection are all though to have played a role in the population recovery. The species remains on the UK BAP list due to its historic decline and a Species Action Plan has been prepared under the Norfolk BAP to encourage continued monitoring and expansion of the population into historic sites – see www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans for more information.

Stoat *Mustela erminea* 206 (3,867) records 133 (887) tetrads

Records of Stoat were received from all areas of the county in 2010 with the exception of the extreme west, where many common species are under-recorded, bringing the total coverage to 61% of Norfolk tetrads. Eighty percent of reports involved sightings of live animals, with observations peaking between April and July, during the breeding season. A nest containing young was found in the roof of a house at Gayton Thorpe in May (ROS), and family parties were observed in June at How Hill (PHE) and Kelling (DIR) and in July on UEA campus (IBR) and Blakeney Point, the latter containing a female and at least six kits (EST). ARL also reported a female killed whilst carrying a kit across a road at High Kelling in June. Rabbit is the main prey of this species (McDonald *et al.* 2000) and Stoats were seen either pursuing or carrying them by a number of observers (DCH, EST, JTY, JWI, MHC, PTA, ROS), although PMO noted that in one particular case at Cley it was hard to determine who was chasing whom. Other mammals on the menu included a Brown Hare leveret (JWI), a Brown Rat (PMO) and several unidentified vole species (CLY, PHE). Avian prey are also taken regularly and DLA witnessed an attack on one individual by a pair of Blackbirds attempting to defend their clutch of eggs. Prize for the most exotic tastes goes to an animal at Cley, however, which attempted to endear itself to the twitching fraternity by making three separate attempts to catch a Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*), climbing through the Sueda bushes and up the fence post that the bird was sitting on (PHE). The cold, snowy winter of 2009/10 appears to have made wearing ermine fashionable again, as reports of individuals of whote or mostly-white idnividuals were received from Kelling in January (AJT), from Hindolveston (MHC) and Haddiscoe (RMU) in February and from Little Snoring in March (GHE). This last animal attracted the attention of a Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), which flew low and fast over to where the mustelid was foraging and hovered about

a metre above it, talons dangling down, at which point the Stoat reared up and repelled it. The most reliable information concerning population trends of this species originates from records of animals controlled by landowners, collated by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's National Gamebag Census (NGC), the latest results of which suggest that Stoat abundance in the UK has more than doubled since the 1960s (Davey *et al.* 2010).

Weasel *Mustela nivalis* 79 (2,517) records 64 (811) tetrads
As in previous years, the majority of records from 2010 originated in the north and east, which is likely to reflect observer effort. While Weasel is seen less often than Stoat, it is equally widespread within the county and has now been recorded on 56% of tetrads. Over 90% of reports involved sightings of live individuals, many having broken cover to cross tracks or roads. No definite sightings of young animals were submitted, but a pregnant female was observed hunting in open dunes and bramble at Holme NNR on 25th March (SWO) and a nest hidden under old machine parts was discovered at Gayton Thorpe by ROS on 5th June. Only one individual was seen with prey, an adult carrying an unidentified vole at New Holkham in December (CLY). As with Stoat, the NGC provides the best population trend data for this species at a national scale, indicating in drop in numbers between 1961 and the mid-1980s, followed by a steady increase (Davey *et al.* 2010).

Ferret *Mustela porus/fero* 3 (44) records 2 (32) tetrads
The expansion of the European Polecat (*Mustela putorius*) eastwards from its former stronghold in Wales has boosted populations in central and south-west England, increasing the potential for the species to colonise Norfolk. It is therefore important that identification of any animals bearing the distinctive bandit-like facial markings is confirmed, and reports of corpses that could be collected for examination would be gratefully received. Of the three reports received in 2010, one related to a road casualty with some evidence of facial markings seen near East Wretham (SUG), while the other two involved one live and one dead animal, possibly the same individual, both observed in Corpusty (BWB, JBR).

American Mink *Mustela vison* 18 (498) records 12 (197) tetrads
Evidence from surveys and control programmes suggests that populations of this introduced species are declining in many areas of the UK, but some observers, including JCR who has worked extensively on the species, feel that numbers in Norfolk may have started to increase once more. Reports received in 2010 mainly involved animals in the Broads and central north Norfolk, although a few did originate from the area to the west of Norwich. Only four records related to sightings of live individuals, which were observed at Saxthorpe (BWB), Hoveton Hall (SWG) and Bawburgh (PKI). Data from the NGC suggest that populations across England have declined by a third over the last 25 years (Davey *et al.* 2010).

PINNIPEDIA

Common Seal *Phoca vitulina* 55 (401) records 9 (69) tetrads
The majority of the Common Seal dataset for 2010 originates from the regular counts performed at Blakeney Point (EST) and Horsey Gap (RJR). While the Point is mainly used as a haul-out area, a few individuals do breed there (Wood 2006) and at least 15 pups were present on 30th August (EST). The population begins to build up at the end of June, when the seals are starting to moult, and thins out again towards the end of September. The peak count in 2010 was of 327 individuals, recorded on the 20th August (EST), numbers falling by 15-20% for the second successive year. Observations at Horsey are made during the Grey Seal breeding season in the winter months, and involve much smaller gatherings, the count peaking at four in 2010 (RJR). Most of the remaining reports were of animals seen on the north and east coasts, including singles at Cley (PMN), Salthouse (SHO), Sheringham (SHO), Overstrand (DMI) and Walcott (JLA), but there were two West Norfolk

sightings, one at Burnham Overy (SHO) and the other at Lynn Point (ROS). A distressing first for the 2010 season were the significant numbers of Common and Grey Seal corpses bearing characteristic corkscrew lacerations that appeared along the north Norfolk coast, with at least 38 cases reported by the middle of August. Animals with similar injuries had been recorded along the coast Fife in the two previous years, with very little indication as to the culprit, but scientists now believe the wounds are consistent with seals being sucked through the large ducted propellers of inshore workboats. The results of a recent study carried out by the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St Andrew's University suggest that the animals may be actually attracted by the sound of the machinery, which appears to resemble their mating calls. If this is the case, then it should be possible to develop mitigation measures. The Wash and north Norfolk colony holds 7% of the national Common Seal population and, taken as a whole, is the largest in the UK. Trends in abundance are currently unclear, but east coast populations have still not fully recovered from the phocine distemper outbreak in 1988, which killed almost 50% of individuals, and Common Seal is listed under the UK BAP (Harkonen *et al.* 2006).

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus* 118 (660) records 20 (72) tetrads
As with Common Seal, over 50% of the Grey Seal dataset for 2010 originates from the regular counts performed at Blakeney Point (EST) and Horsey Gap (RJR) during the breeding season, between November and February. Previously used as a haul-out site, the breeding population at Blakeney Point has grown rapidly since 2001, when 25 pups were born (Wood 2006). Having topped 500 births for the first time in 2009, the number rose to an incredible 800 during the 2010/11 season (EST). The first recorded pup counts at Horsey date back to 1991 (RJR, pers comm.) when just four were born, since which time this east coast population has experienced the same rapid growth as witnessed in the north. While the cold winter weather during the 2010/11 winter may have caused some problems for RJR, who had to brave the 'three-dimensional skating rink' of the dunes, the breeding seals seemed largely oblivious, producing a record total of 402 pups, twice the number recorded in 2008. The first young of the year were recorded on 9th November, with the peak count occurring on 12th December and the last birth at the end of that month. Thirty percent fewer dead pups were observed than in the previous season, but this figure may have been affected by the sea-state and the frequency of visits. Those that did perish were seen to provide feeding opportunities for gulls, Carrion Crow and Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). Additional records of large groups hauled out off the coast at Great Yarmouth were submitted by SHO, who counted 190 by telescope on 1st April and at least 350 on 5th October. In previous years, small numbers of seals have been reported some distance inland, but the only sighting away from the coast during 2010 was of one animal in Breydon Water at Cobholm on 20th September (PDO). Records were sparse to the west of Blakeney Point, with just one observation of two live individuals at Holkham Bay (SHO), the remaining reports pertaining to tideline corpses at Stiffkey (ARL), Wells (JWI) and Thornham (DIR). UK Grey Seals currently account for almost 40% of the world population and the numbers are predicted to increase further as many potential breeding sites are yet to be filled.

Ringed Seal *Phoca hispida* 0 (3) records 0 (?) tetrads
A reference to three historic records of this Arctic species, possibly under-recorded in the UK due to its resemblance to Common Seal, was recently unearthed by RMR while perusing the JNCC Conservation Status Assessment for Rare and Occasional Seals, a slightly obscure publication that the editor had previously overlooked. This lists Norfolk sightings in 1846, 1991 and 1995, but no further details are given.

Harp Seal *Pagophilus groenlandica* 0 (2) records 0 (1) tetrads
The Norfolk Mammal Database contains only two records of this vagrant species, typically found in the Arctic Atlantic, both pertaining to dead individuals. However, it should be noted that an additional record of an adult found at Holkham and taken to a rescue centre in 1994 has been

published in the Handbook of British Mammals (Harris & Yalden 2008).

Bearded Seal *Phoca hispida* 0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads
As was the case with Ringed Seal, a reference to a historic record was uncovered by RMR in the JNCC Conservation Status Assessment for Rare and Occasional Seals, in this case relating to a young male caught at Bunham Overy in 1892.

Walrus *Odobenus rosmarus* 0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads
The only record held on the database dates back to 1981 – still holding out for a 30th Anniversary reappearance…

ARTIODACTYLA

Reeves' Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi* 539 (3,494) records 206 (733) tetrads
More reports of Reeves' Muntjac were submitted last year than of any other deer, and the species has now been recorded on over 50% of tetrads in Norfolk, 35 of which were novel in 2010. One quarter of all data were collected by GBW participants, which is indicative of the extent to which this species, the least wary of the British deer, will utilise areas of human habitation. While hotspots are apparent in the Brecks, central north Norfolk and the area to the north-east of King's Lynn, the population has spread rapidly in recent years and now occurs throughout the county. One young animal even made it to the plantation on Blakeney Point in 2010 (EST), where it stayed for several days. The growing number of Reeves' Muntjac in the Broads increases the potential for confusion with the superficially similar Chinese Water Deer, which is also expanding its range. Muntjac can be distinguished by their longer tail, often held erect when running, short 'prong' antlers and black facial markings. The majority (93%) of records involved sightings of live individuals, with observations peaking in April. Muntjac do not herd, but loose groups will form in good feeding areas; unfortunately for JSH, one such area is his garden at Horsham St Faith, home to at least eight deer that 'seem to have a predilection for Geraniums, Delphiniums and more recently, my beetroot tops.' A count of seven animals was also recorded grazing on a woodland edge at Wells (JWI). Breeding can occur throughout the year but reports of fawns were few and far between in 2010, the only observations relating to the aforementioned individual on Blakeney Point between 12th and 17th July and two youngsters seen by DIL in Thetford on separate parts of The Nunnery Reserve, Thetford on 18th February. The most recent BBS trends indicate that numbers in England have increased by 113% since 1995 (Risely *et al.* 2011), with a 94% increase recorded in the eastern region over the same period. In addition to the economic impacts on forestry and commercial gardening operations, increasing deer numbers are of concern to conservationists due to their impact on the woodland under-storey. Population expansion may also increase the incidence of lyme disease, which is transmitted by deer ticks.

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* 124 (2,014) records 54 (447) tetrads
Sightings of Red Deer appear to be more aggregated than those of many other species, suggestive of a number of roaming herds, although the species has been observed at on over 30% of Norfolk tetrads in total, with nine novel tetrads added in 2010. The north-east of the Broads formed an obvious hotspot for reports, smaller numbers of records originating from central north Norfolk, the area to the south-west of Norwich and the Brecks, with a scattering in the north-west. Red Deer do form large herds but maximum numbers reported were lower than in previous years. The highest counts, numbering 50+ and 35 individuals respectively, were both recorded in the Stubb Mill area of Hickling (CSH, JHP), with groups of 20+ also noted at Brettenham Heath (JWI) and Ketteringham (DIL). Females generally give birth in late May and June, but young can be born as late as December, and it can take up to eight months to wean them. The only fawn reported in 2010 was being suckled by its mother near Holt on 26th September (AMO) and possibly the same

individual appeared again on 17th October, accompanied by a stag and hind. The rut commences soon after and PHE watched five roaring stags trying to impress two females at Hickling on 17th October. BBS trends for the species are difficult to interpret due to the small sample sizes, but the latest results suggest that the UK population has increased significantly since 1995 (Risely *et al.* 2011).

Sika Deer *Cervus nippon* 0 (9) records 0 (6) tetrads
The last sighting recorded in the Norfolk Mammal Database dates back to 2002, although photographs of this species taken at Melton Constable in 2006 were posted on the internet and a captive herd may well still exist there. Seven of the eight historic records refer to individuals in deer parks, the exception being an individual seen in Horsford Woods in 1969. The difficulties in distinguishing this species from other large deer and the paucity of records make it very difficult to determine the status of Sika Deer in Norfolk. It is unlikely that the species is at large in the wild within the county at present, though expanding populations elsewhere may ultimately lead to its arrival.

Fallow Deer *Dama dama* 14 (583) records 9 (185) tetrads
The apparent distribution of Fallow Deer is the least extensive of any deer species in Norfolk (excluding Sika – see above), with records received from only 13% of tetrads to date, four of which were novel in 2010. The majority of historic records originate in the north-west of the county, the population possibly seeded by escapees from the captive herd of 350+ (PPA, RMR) at Holkham Park. However, only four reports of free-ranging individuals originated from this area last year, three at Dersingham Bog (PPA, ROS), including one herd of 20 (PPA), and one at Wolferton (PWO). The majority of sightings were centred around Horsford Woods, to the north of Norwich, where the species was recorded by IDO, IKE, JSH and PHE. The largest count in this area was of 23 deer on 24th June (JSH), a group which included five melanistic does. The remaining observations were all from Warren Wood in the Brecks (NCA). The latest BBS trends suggest that the population has remained stable since 1995, but calculation of accurate estimates is hampered by small sample sizes (Risely *et al.* 2011).

European Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus* 455 (4,102) records 177 (701) tetrads
While records from the extreme south-east were sparse, reports were distributed evenly across the rest of Norfolk. The species was noted on 29 novel tetrads, bringing the total historic coverage to 48% of county tetrads. Observations of live individuals, which accounted for all but seven records, peaked between March and May, at the start of the breeding season. Births typically occur between May and mid-June, and the first fawn of the year was recorded on the 19th June at West Newton (ROS), with others noted on 22nd June (PMN), 2nd July (EMC), 25th July (MHY) and 31st July (ROS). Unlike Red or Fallow Deer, Roe tend to move about in small, loose herds, but numbers can build up in the winter. The largest group recorded in 2010 numbered 16 individuals, seen grazing at Lakenheath on 18th January (MPT), with double-figure counts also reported from Thompson at the end of January (JVM) and at Weeting-with-Broomhill in April (JWI). The latest BBS trends (Risely *et al.* 2011) suggest that the English Roe population has grown by 38% since 1995 and that the rate of increase in Scotland is greater still. As with Reeves' Muntjac, this rapid population growth may have conservation, commercial and medical implications, and it is vital that we continue to improve monitoring efforts within the county.

Chinese Water Deer *Hydropotes inermis* 417 (4,162) records 102 (274) tetrads
The Chinese Water Deer population continues to expand out of the species' traditional stronghold in the Broads, steadily becoming more established along the north coast and in the south-east. Individuals have now been recorded on 19% of tetrads in Norfolk, 17 of which were novel in 2010. Of these, six were in the north-west, at Castle Rising (CSM), Titchwell (JWI), Burnham Norton (JWI), Burnham Market (CSM), North Creake (CSM) and Stiffkey Fen (PHE), four were in central

north Norfolk, at Cley (CLY), Briston (JBR), Edgefield (AJT) and Guestwick (JWI), and one was on the western edge of Norwich (MRO). All bar one of the remaining novel tetrads were in the south-east of the county, around Thurlton, Haddiscoe and Thorpe Marshes (CJO, PDO, PHE, PKI, RWR, SHO, SWG). Over 10% of records involved road casualties, a much higher figure than for other deer species, but this may reflect the nature of the road network in their core habitat rather than any unfortunate behavioural trait. The majority of reports were of live sightings, however, peaking in December and January during the rut. Fawns are seldom observed and the only juvenile reported was spotted by PHE at Horning Marshes on 27th August. The species does not herd, but can occur in loose groups, the maximum count in 2010 involving16 individuals, recorded by PHE at Haddiscoe Island on 31st January. National monitoring schemes are unable to produce population trends for Chinese Water Deer due to the species' restricted geographic range.

CETACEA

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* 0 (11) records 0 (10) tetrads
Last recorded in 2008, when a single individual was seen off Walcott. On the east coast of the UK, this species is only rarely encountered south of Yorkshire. This species is included on the revised UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for baleen whales.

Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalus* 0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads
Last recorded in 2003, when an upper jawbone found near a Sperm Whale carcass was identified as being from this species. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for baleen whales.

Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis* 0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads
This occasional visitor to UK waters was last recorded from Norfolk in 1971, when an individual was stranded at Holkham Gap. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for baleen whales.

Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus* 0 (11) records 0 (7) tetrads
Last recorded in 2006, when an individual was washed ashore at Brancaster and what was assumed to be the same individual was reported on Scolt Head Island NNR (presumably moved by the tide). This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

Northern Bottlenose Whale *Hyperoodon ampullatus* 3 (9) records 3 (8) tetrads
A deep water species, spending most of its time in the North Atlantic, the Northern Bottlenose Whale is a rare visitor to the shallow waters of the North Sea. Three records pertaining to this species were received in 2010, however, via the coordinator of the Seawatch Foundation (SWF) for the Eastern Region. These pertained to two individuals sighted from boats in The Wash on three separate occasions by JWO and SLE over a week-long period in August, with both observers reportedly sure of the identification. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

Cuvier's Beaked Whale *Ziphius cavirostris* 0 (3) records 0 (1) tetrads
All three records refer to the same individual found dead on the north-east coast in 2002. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

Sowerby's beaked Whale *Mesoplodon bidens* 0 (2) records 0 (2) tetrads
This species has been recorded twice in the county, the most recent report relating to an individual found stranded on Blakeney Point in 2009 that was subsequently refloated (see Porter & Stubbings

(2010) for a full finder's account). The only previous record was of a single beached individual recorded at Happisburgh in August 1952. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* 50 (463) records 21 (81) tetrads
Records received via SWF, including many from MFZ, continue to boost the dataset for this under-recorded species, but more information, current or historic is urgently required, so please get in touch if you can help. Sightings of live individuals, all but three originating from the stretch of coast between Blakeney Point and Winterton, accounted for almost 90% of records received in 2010. The maximum count was of a pod of four animals observed together by MFZ at Walcott in October, including what appeared to be a calf swimming close to its mother. Remains of beached porpoises were found at Cley (CLY), Salthouse (MSW), Cromer (APE), Trimingham (CBR) and Horsey Gap (RJR). There is some evidence for a decline in numbers of Harbour Porpoise in UK waters since the 1940s, especially in the southern North Sea and English Channel, which has led to the inclusion of the species on the UK BAP list. A Species Action Plan has been prepared under the Norfolk BAP, encouraging increased monitoring to allow the impacts of increased anthropogenic disturbance, commercial fisheries, pollution and climate change to be fully assessed. The plan can be viewed at www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans and an identification guide to east coast cetaceans can also be downloaded from www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/reports%20and%20publications/.

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncates* 0 (7) records 0 (7) tetrads
For the second year running there were rumours of a Bottlenose Dolphin seen in Norfolk, but no information has been submitted to date. The individual in question may have been seen off the Holme area during February 2010 – it is a very scarce species in this part of the North Sea, so if anyone has any more information then please do get in touch. Likewise, we have still not received any further information on the beached individual reported at Heacham on 22nd March 2009 and its identification therefore still cannot be confirmed. Separating the dolphin species may be more difficult than it appears in the field guides as markings can be variable (see the White-beaked Dolphin article in this Report), so it is always a good idea to take pictures of any beached cetaceans found.

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis* 0 (7) records 0 (5) tetrads
Most recent records refer to two dead individuals reported from the north Norfolk coast in 1996. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for small dolphins.

White-beaked Dolphin *Lagenorynchus albirostris* 1 (23) records 1 (18) tetrads
White-beaked is the most commonly recorded dolphin species in Norfolk, but a report of a dead individual found stranded on the beach at Blakeney Point on 23rd October (EST, RPO) was still the first county record for 11 years. A full finders' account and photographs of the animal appear in this Report. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for small dolphins.

Atlantic White-sided Dolphin *Leucopleurus acutus* 0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads
An individual thought to be of this species was washed ashore at Blakeney in November 2006. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for small dolphins.

Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melas* 0 (7) records 0 (6) tetrads
The last confirmed record for Norfolk was of an individual found dead on Scolt Head Island NNR in 1992. This species is included on the UK BAP list under the Grouped Species Plan for toothed whales.

False Killer Whale *Pseudorca crassidens* 0 (1) records 0 (1) tetrads

The only Norfolk record concerns the stranding of eight individuals in Wooton Creek in November 1935.

Contributors

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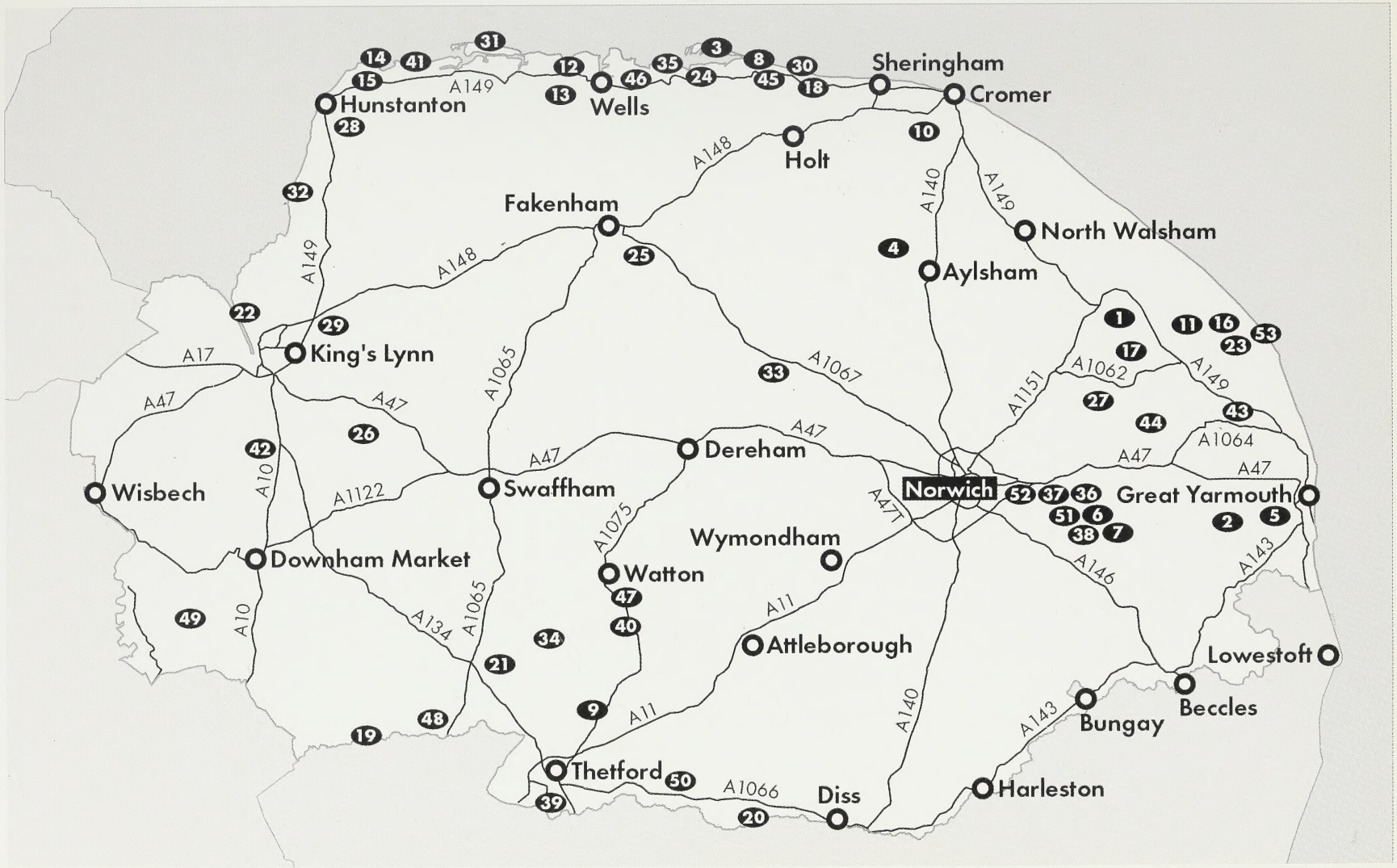
Principal Sites and Reserves

1	Barton Broad	NWT	21	Lynford Arboretum		41	Titchwell Marsh	RSPB
2	Berney Marshes	RSPB	22	Lynn Point		42	Tottenhill GP	
3	Blakeney Point	NT	23	Martham Broad	NWT	43	Trinity Broads:	BA
4	Blickling Park	NT	24	Morston/Stiffkey Marshes	NT		Filby Broad	
5	Breydon Water	LNR	25	Pensthorpe	PWT		Lily Broad	
6	Buckenham/Cantley Marshes	RSPB	26	Pentney GP			Ormesby Broad	
7	Cantley Beet Factory	BS	27	Ranworth/Cockshoot Broads	NWT		Ormesby Little Broad	
8	Cley Marsh	NWT	28	Ringstead Downs	NWT		Rollesby Broad	
9	East Wretham Heath	NWT	29	Roydon Common	NWT	44	Upton Fen	NWT
10	Felbrigg Park	NT	30	Salthouse Marshes	NWT	45	Walsey Hills	NOA
11	Hickling Broad	NWT	31	Scolt Head Island	EN	46	Warham Greens	EN
12	Holkham NNR	EN	32	Snettisham Pits	RSPB	47	Wayland Wood	NWT
13	Holkham Park	HE	33	Sparham Pools	NWT	48	Weeting Heath	NWT
14	Holme Bird Observatory	NOA	34	Stanford Training Area (TA)		49	Welney Washes	W&WT
15	Holme Dunes	NWT	35	Stiffkey Fen		50	West Harling	
16	Horsey Mere	NT	36	Strumpshaw Fen	RSPB	51	Wheatfen	TET
17	How Hill	BA	37	Surlingham Broad	NWT	52	Whitlingham CP	
18	Kelling WM		38	Surlingham/Rockland Marshes	RSPB	53	Winterton Dunes	EN
19	Hockwold Washes		39	Thetford Nunnery Lakes	BTO			
20	Lopham Fen	SWT	40	Thompson Water	NWT			

BA	=	Broads Authority	NT	=	National Trust
BTO	=	British Trust for Ornithology	NWT	=	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
BS	=	British Sugar	PWT	=	Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust
EN	=	English Nature	RSPB	=	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
HE	=	Holkham Estate	SWT	=	Suffolk Wildlife Trust
LNR	=	Local Nature Reserve	TET	=	Ted Ellis Trust
NOA	=	Norfolk Ornithologists Association	W&WT	=	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust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